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World Player of the Year

RIVALDO 1 BECKHAM 0

Brazilian takes the glory

EURO 2000

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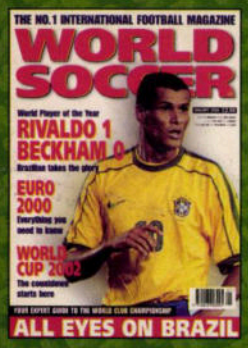

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NEW tournaments come and go with alarming regularity these days, but the inaugural World Club Championship – or the Club World Championship as FIFA has clumsily christened it – could be around for many years to come. Not that it has got off to a great start. As Brian Homewood reports on page 18, only four of the eight teams in Brazil will be there as reigning continental champions. It is always easy to knock new ideas, but a global team tournament has enormous potential – let's hope the early problems are resolved.

David Beckham will be one of the big draws in Brazil, but over the next few months in Europe, he could be playing second fiddle to Rivaldo, your Player of the Year. Read the full results of the *World Soccer* annual awards over the page.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Keir Radnedge, who has stepped down as executive editor to concentrate on running his own media business, although he will continue to write extensively for us. Over the years, Keir has done more than anybody to make *World Soccer* the successful publication it is today. **Gavin Hamilton, Editor** (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

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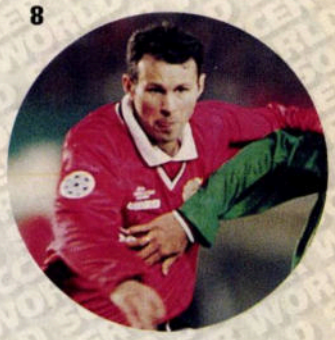

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Brazilian roasts

Barça man tops our readers' poll; treble-winners make it a double

Rivaldo
World Player of the Year

Manchester Utd
World Team of the Year

Alex Ferguson
World Manager of the Year

MANCHESTER UNITED's treble-winning season prompted more than 60 per cent of voters in the annual *World Soccer* poll to select them as World Team of the Year and their boss, Alex Ferguson, as top man in the Manager category. But a Brazilian based in Barcelona stopped a clean sweep.

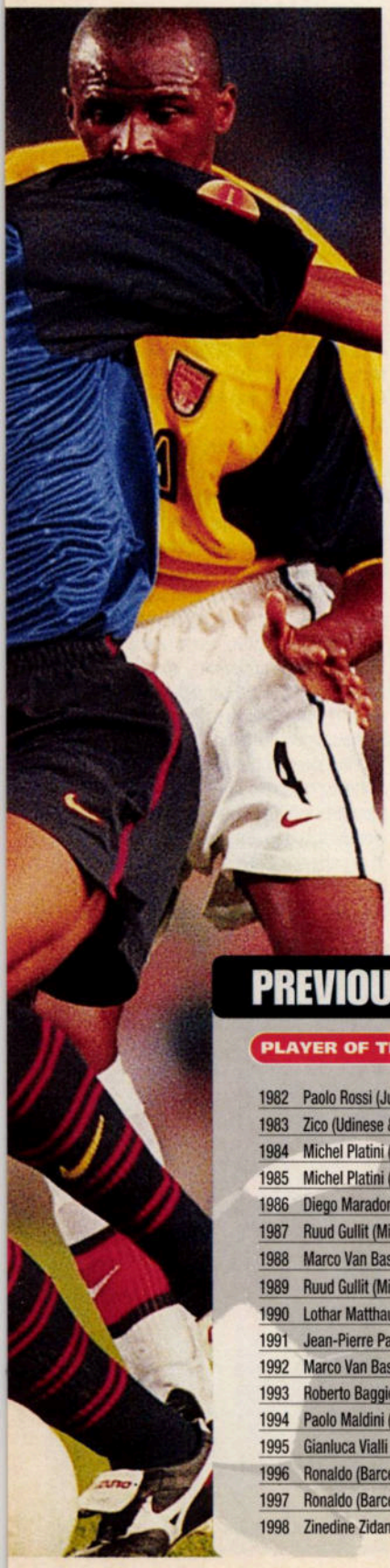
Rivaldo took the Player of the Year award by a surprisingly clear margin, polling 42 per cent of the votes and finishing nearly 16 per cent ahead of Manchester United's David Beckham in what was virtually a two-man race.

Andrii Shevchenko, the Ukrainian striker doing so well in his first season with Milan, was third with nine per cent of the poll, but the rest were nowhere. Indeed, none of last year's first three – Zinedine Zidane, Michael Owen and Ronaldo – managed to get into the top 10 this time, and although Roy Keane and Dwight Yorke finished high enough to give Manchester United three of the first five, they were a long, long way back.

Rivaldo's poll victory was a reflection of his wonderful year with Barcelona and his performances for Brazil, whom he helped to win the Copa America in July.

If he maintains this form he might well emulate

the rest



his compatriot Ronaldo by winning the *World Soccer* award twice in succession.

Beckham had been widely favoured to become the first English winner of the Player category, but perhaps paid the penalty for a cash-encrusted lifestyle that offends as many as it attracts.

Manchester United draw enormous crowds wherever they go, but they are widely unpopular away from their home base. This was summed up in one word by one of our readers, John P Bowles the Fourth of Burlington, Vermont, who put the word "grudgingly" in brackets when voting for Alex Ferguson as Manager of the Year.

No doubt many readers felt the same, but there is no denying that Ferguson, now Sir Alex, maximises the financial clout that United generate, and rarely makes a bad buy.

Following United's triumphs in the Champions League, Premiership and FA Cup, this year's voting brought Ferguson a treble of his own. He became the first manager to win our award twice, he took a record share of the poll – almost 61 per cent – and won it by the biggest margin ever. In addition, he finished in the top 10 for a record seventh time.

Milan's Alberto Zaccheroni and Barcelona's Louis Van Gaal were second and third respectively, but Arsenal's Arsene Wenger, the winner last season, slipped to 11th.

Like Ferguson, Manchester United won their category by a record margin and with a record share of the poll, and they became only the second English club to finish top. Everton were the first, having won the championship and the Cup-winners Cup in 1985.

Brazil were second this year, with the United States women's team beating Barcelona into third place on the strength of their victory in the World Cup last July.

HOW YOU VOTED

WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

		% of votes
1	Rivaldo (Barcelona & Brazil)	42.27
2	David Beckham (Manchester Utd & England)	26.55
3	Andrii Shevchenko (Kyiv Dynamo/Milan & Ukraine)	9.02
4	Roy Keane (Manchester Utd & Republic of Ireland)	2.84
5	Dwight Yorke (Manchester Utd & Trinidad and Tobago)	2.06
6	Christian Vieri (Lazio/Inter & Italy)	1.55
7	Raul (Real Madrid & Spain)	1.29
8	Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina & Argentina)	1.03
	Nwankwo Kanu (Inter/Arsenal & Nigeria)	1.03
	Juan Veron (Parma/Lazio & Argentina)	1.03
26 others		11.34

WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

1	Alex Ferguson (Manchester Utd)	60.67
2	Alberto Zaccheroni (Milan)	9.58
3	Louis Van Gaal (Barcelona)	4.66
4	Ottmar Hitzfeld (Bayern Munich)	3.62
5	Valerii Lobanovskyi (Kyiv Dynamo)	3.36
6	Wanderley Luxemburgo (Brazil)	2.84
7	Sven Goran Eriksson (Lazio)	2.07
8	Gianluca Vialli (Chelsea)	1.81
9	David O'Leary (Leeds)	1.55
10	Jose Antonio Camacho (Spain)	1.29
28 others		8.55

WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

1	Manchester United	61.19
2	Brazil	7.81
3	United States women's team	5.72
4	Barcelona	3.90
5	Kyiv Dynamo	3.64
	Milan	3.64
7	Lazio	3.38
8	Czech Republic	1.56
9	Bayern Munich	1.30
	Boca Juniors	1.30
19 others		6.56

PREVIOUS WINNERS (% of votes in brackets)

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

1982	Paolo Rossi (Juventus & Italy, 23)
1983	Zico (Udinese & Brazil, 28)
1984	Michel Platini (Juventus & France, 54)
1985	Michel Platini (Juventus & France, 21)
1986	Diego Maradona (Napoli & Argentina, 36)
1987	Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland, 39)
1988	Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland, 43)
1989	Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland, 24)
1990	Lothar Matthaus (Inter & West Germany, 22)
1991	Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille & France, 25)
1992	Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland, 19)
1993	Roberto Baggio (Juventus & Italy, 14)
1994	Paolo Maldini (Milan & Italy, 27)
1995	Gianluca Vialli (Juventus & Italy, 18)
1996	Ronaldo (Barcelona & Brazil, 17)
1997	Ronaldo (Barcelona/Inter & Brazil, 27)
1998	Zinedine Zidane (Juventus & France, 23)

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

1982	Enzo Bearzot (Italy, 49)
1983	Sepp Piontek (Denmark, 29)
1984	Michel Hidalgo (France, 30)
1985	Terry Venables (Barcelona, 30)
1986	Guy Thys (Belgium, 15)
1987	Johan Cruyff (Ajax, 25)
1988	Rinus Michels (Holland & Bayer Leverkusen, 48)
1989	Arrigo Sacchi (Milan, 42)
1990	Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany, 53)
1991	Michel Platini (France, 42)
1992	Richard Moller Nielsen (Denmark, 28)
1993	Alex Ferguson (Manchester United, 21)
1994	Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil, 17)
1995	Louis Van Gaal (Ajax, 42)
1996	Berti Vogts (Germany, 28)
1997	Ottmar Hitzfeld (Borussia Dortmund, 17)
1998	Arsene Wenger (Arsenal, 28)

TEAM OF THE YEAR

1982	Brazil (30)
1983	Hamburg (29)
1984	France (45)
1985	Everton (42)
1986	Argentina (15)
1987	FC Porto (38)
1988	Holland (43)
1989	Milan (51)
1990	West Germany (28)
1991	France (20)
1992	Denmark (37)
1993	Parma (24)
1994	Milan (33)
1995	Ajax (50)
1996	Nigeria (31)
1997	Borussia Dortmund (20)
1998	France (35)

Keir Radnedge
COMMENTARY

'BSkyB has taken a giant leap forward in obtaining rights to the 2002 and 2006 World Cups'

Done deal...Rupert Murdoch (left) and Leo Kirch

Another Snatch of the Day

APPARENTLY the European Commission is worried about Rupert Murdoch's purchase of a stake in Germany's biggest pay-TV company. I can tell you two other organisations even more worried: BBC and ITV.

Murdoch's deal with his German counterpart, Leo Kirch, has been all over the financial pages of the papers but nobody was very quick to spot the football connection – which is this: that BSkyB has taken a giant leap forward in obtaining rights to the 2002 and 2006 World Cups.

FIFA's old, cosy deal with the European Broadcasting Union, of which BBC and ITV are members, came to an end with France 98. Up until then, BBC and ITV had paid peanuts – £3.6million between them – for the World Cup. But all that changed once Kirch rolled out £750m for full rights.

To get his money back and make a profit, Kirch must sell to the highest bidders. He is restricted because FIFA insists that the Opening Match, semi-finals, third place play-off and Final, plus all matches of a domestic channel's team must be free to view. Apart from that, live matches can go to pay-TV (not, incidentally, pay-per-view; FIFA will not go that far...yet).

We have noted here before that ITV is considering a big-money, go-it-alone bid for 2002. Now it will probably have to do business with BSkyB, which has a head start because of Murdoch's deal with Kirch. Thus the satellite channel, presumably, hopes to have the bulk of the World Cup live and, graciously, to sub-let matches for highlights programmes to its terrestrial rivals.

ITV and BBC doubtless will squeal that Broadcasting Act regulations stipulate they have first option on any major sports event. But it's open to question whether such laws would stand scrutiny when both rights and event are foreign-owned.

So how much has this cost Murdoch? Answer: about £1billion for a 24 per cent stake in KirchPayTV, including a share in controlling World Cup rights and all that that means.

Sounds like Snatch of the Day all over again.

They don't know their wrong from their right

OFFICIALS and administrators run referees close in the scapegoat stakes. They can't do wrong for doing right.

Take Martin Edwards, chairman of moneybags Manchester United. He upset the fans, plus manager Sir Alex Ferguson, by cracking down on player wages. That's why United couldn't press bids for Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta and Brazil's Rivaldo.

Now, however, to keep skipper Roy Keane, United have sanctioned a policy-busting new contract worth £50,000 a week. Good news for Edwards? Certainly not. It's only going to bring him more headaches when the likes of David Beckham and Ryan Giggs want to talk terms again.

It was the same story at the World Cup draw in Tokyo. African officials thought they were doing just what FIFA wanted when they offered to convert the African Nations Cup into a qualifying event for the 2002 World Cup. Wasn't this the way ahead? Fewer matches and less pressure on players in an organised global calendar?

Wrong. Forget it, the Africans were told. Their foresight apparently would have upset Europe, South America and all the other regions who are dragging their feet in the fixtures free-for-all.

And spare a thought for the front office at New York/New Jersey MetroStars. They thought signing Lothar Matthaus was a wonderful coup. Big name, big draw, lots of experience. He is supposed to become a MetroStar at the start of January but don't bet on it. Bayern Munich have other ideas.

Staying put?...Lothar Matthaus

Player power on the increase

PLAYERS are getting too impatient for their own good. The season in Europe is not quite halfway through and already the talk is of mid-winter moves and mid-summer transfers.

Take the case of Emerson Ferreira, the Brazilian midfielder at Bayer Leverkusen.

Italy in mind...Emerson Ferreira

He has a long contract but that means nothing. He has made no secret of his ambition to play in Italy.

Roma enquired in the summer; Leverkusen said no. They wanted Emerson playing for them in the Champions League. Now Leverkusen are out of that competition, Roma are back in the frame.

Leverkusen have said again that Emerson stays. We'll see.

It's the same in France. Florian Maurice was top scorer for Marseille last season but, even though they are still in the Champions League, he has been looking for a move to Italy or England. Team-mate Fabrizio Ravanelli is another Marseille player with itchy feet. The mid-season deal with Lazio is done and dusted, apparently, even though both clubs are contesting the same Champions League group.

In England, Tottenham fans fret over Sol Campbell's future even though his contract does not expire until June 2001. Yet already he talks imperiously about wanting to be sure the club will sign the "right sort of players".

That's what you call player power.

One ref per game is enough

FIFA president Sepp Blatter is worried about refereeing. It's been his crusade ever since the 1990 World Cup, when two Argentinians were sent off in the Final against West Germany.

In 1994 in the United States Blatter enforced a clampdown on foul play. Leonardo of Brazil was one of those who paid the price, for an awful foul on American Tab Ramos. In France last year the tackle from behind was Blatter's target – plus retaliation. Thus French hero Zinedine Zidane had to sit out a couple of games.

Now Blatter fears referees are forgetting those high standards. He wants to see more red and yellow cards, not fewer. That's an attitude that might suit Pierluigi Collina, the Italian disciplinarian who refereed last season's Champions League Final.

Collina is being drawn into the latest refereeing experiment. Italy is one of six countries trying two referees per game, and the domestic Cup is the testing ground. Unfortunately the experiment made the worst possible start when a Sampdoria-Bologna match had to be abandoned because of hooliganism.

Not everyone thinks it's a good idea. Michel Vautrot, who refereed the Italy-Argentina semi-final at Italia 90, says: "Two heads are not necessarily better than one. Players and referees have enough problems understanding one another already."

Thirty years ago I watched the British Army Football Association experiment with…two referees. I remember the officials being sceptical then. They felt the idea weakened their authority, not reinforced it. A bit like having two FIFA presidents, I suppose.

A new spin to the big count

ENGLAND have scored one small but significant victory in the run-up to the FIFA executive vote, in Zurich on July 5, as to who hosts the World Cup finals in 2006.

The self-same executive has decided that the hosts will be chosen according to an absolute majority vote. That means that if one country does not win more than half the votes in the first ballot, the candidate receiving the least support drops out and a second ballot is held…and so on.

Present speculation has South Africa winning the first ballot but not with an absolute majority, and then Morocco or Brazil falling out. That, of course, is if Brazil are still up and running come July.

North Korea still throw a shadow

THEY think it's all over as far as North Korea and the World Cup is concerned. Well, they may still run on the pitch come 2002.

Not only have the North Koreans rebuffed all the loving attention emanating from Seoul, but they were also among only five FIFA members not to enter the qualifying draw. As World Cup organising president Lennart Johansson said, relieved at seeing an end to this tedious saga: "North Korea can now play no part in the tournament for which they have not entered."

Chung Mong-joon, South Korea's federation president, has other ideas, with political and commercial reasons as well as sporting and neighbourly ones for using 2002 to soften up the North.

That explains Sepp Blatter's announcement that North Korea may yet be "allowed to host two matches in the finals if the South Koreans want to switch them."

Want to? Try stopping them, given half a chance.

Banned...Sandro Hiroshi

A charter for cheats

ONE LAW for Brazil, another law for everyone else. That's the conclusion to be drawn from FIFA president Sepp Blatter's assurance to us in Tokyo that the four-times world champions will not be suspended from the 2002 World Cup – even if found guilty of fielding over-age players in youth tournaments two years ago.

Sandro Hiroshi of Sao Paulo has been banned in Brazil for five months, for falsifying passport and other documentation. The catch is that he played for Brazil's winning team in the 1997 South American Under-17 tournament, although now it is apparent that he was ineligible.

Sao Paulo's Henrique, who would have played for Brazil's winning side in New Zealand recently had he not been exposed just before the squad flew out, also is under investigation.

Blatter might have sought to justify his apparent pardon-in-advance on legal grounds, viz the investigation is still going on, the World Cup draw has been made with Brazil in place, everyone is innocent until proved guilty, etc. He did not need to. FIFA provided him with a beautiful new get-out – a rule change which stipulates that countries can be punished only in the same age group in which an offence was committed. Thus the maximum penalty Brazil (or Ecuador, also under investigation) can face is being suspended from the next South American and World Under-17 Championships.

Big deal! Sounds like a cheats' charter to me. What's the point in having a rule which is not buttressed by proper sanctions?

After Tokyo, Rio

United keep moving in the search for more success

November 30, 1999 – Tokyo Olympic stadium

MANCHESTER UNITED 1
(Keane 35)
PALMEIRAS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
MAN UNITED:
Bosnich - G Neville, Stam, Silvestre, Irwin - Beckham, Butt, Keane, Scholes (Sheringham 74), Giggs - Solskjaer (Yorke 46).
PALMEIRAS:
Marcos - Junior Baiano, Roque Junior, Arce - Cesar Sampaio, Galeano (Evair 53), Junior, Alex, Zinho - Asprilla (Oseas 56), Paulo Nunes (Euller 76).

WORLD Club Cup, Toyota Cup, Intercontinental Cup – call it what you will. For Manchester United, their trip to Tokyo was another cup, another continent, and another valuable marketing opportunity.

Their victory over Palmeiras of Brazil in Tokyo means that United, the European champions, will travel to Brazil for FIFA's inaugural World Club Championship having already taken the unofficial title of world club champions.

The annual meeting between the club champions of Europe and South America resulted in United's fourth major trophy of 1999. With it, they became the first British team to win the competition.

For manager Alex Ferguson, the victory, secured by Roy Keane's first-half goal, was further proof of the need to keep captain Keane at Old Trafford. Eight days later, United were able to announce that he had agreed a new contract worth a record-breaking, wage-cap-smashing £50,000 a week.

But in Tokyo, despite the winning goal, Keane's performance was overshadowed by that of United keeper Mark Bosnich, who played his best match for the English champions since his summer transfer from Aston Villa.

Bosnich had been dropped earlier in the season in favour of Italian Massimo Taibi. But he responded to criticisms that he lacked commitment to the cause with a splendid performance in Tokyo's Olympic stadium. The Australian pulled off brilliant saves from Palmeiras substitute Oseas and their lively young midfielder Alex.

Ferguson had left strikers Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole out of the starting line-up and United took their time to shake off their jet-lag and get into the match. Palmeiras had the better of the early exchanges, with Mickael Silvestre clearing off the line

Prize winner...man of the match Ry

Goldrush...United celebrate their fourth major trophy of 1999

ggs (left) won a car from the sponsors

and Bosnich saving from Alex at close range.

Against the run of play, in the 35th minute, Giggs outpaced Junior Baiano on the left flank and crossed to the far post. Keane took advantage of a misjudgment by Palmeiras keeper Marcos to fire home.

In the second half, Palmeiras responded with a string of attacks which United, inspired by Bosnich, did well to repel. Ferguson was quick to pay tribute to the South Americans. "Because of the way Palmeiras played we had to take certain risks and they paid off," he said. "We treated this match very seriously and badly wanted to win it because no British team had won it before, and it has made us world champions."

And it was Giggs, rather than Bosnich, who was named man of the match, receiving a car from the sponsors. The Welshman had an excellent chance to put the match beyond Palmeiras' reach in the 59th minute when through on goal, but he shot narrowly wide.

United's victory was the fifth in a row by a European team in the competition – following Ajax, Juventus, Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid – and it meant that European sides have now won it 18 times, two fewer than South America's representatives.

With the arrival of FIFA's new tournament, the status, if not the future, of the World Club Cup must now be questioned. FIFA insists that the competition's fate is a matter for UEFA and CONMEBOL.

The future development of the World Club Championship is still uncertain. A FIFA spokesman said that the world governing body will "take stock" after January's inaugural tournament in Brazil. All future competitions will have to fit into FIFA's ambitious plans to unify the international calendar.

Manchester United need not concern themselves with that. After Tokyo, Rio. The club's quest for world domination continues.

Gavin Hamilton

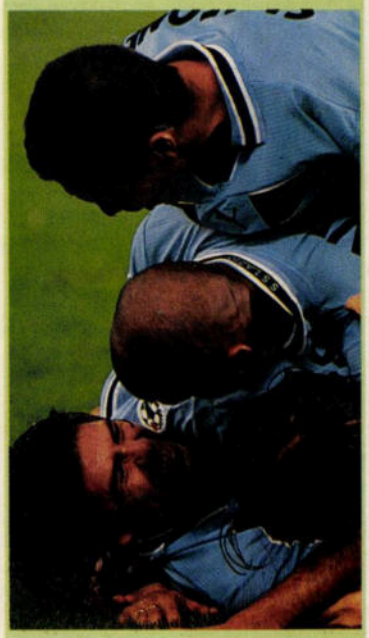
WORLD CLUB CUP FINALS COMPLETE HISTORY

1960 Real Madrid v Penarol, 0-0, 5-1
1961 Penarol v Benfica, 0-1, 5-0, 2-1
1962 Santos v Benfica, 3-2, 5-2
1963 Santos v Milan, 2-4, 4-2, 1-0
1964 Internazionale v Independiente, 0-1, 2-0, 1-0
1965 Internazionale v Independiente, 3-0, 0-0
1966 Penarol v Real Madrid, 2-0, 2-0
1967 Racing Club v Celtic, 0-1, 2-1, 1-0
1968 Estudiantes v Manchester Utd, 1-0, 1-1
1969 Milan v Estudiantes, 3-0, 1-2
1970 Feyenoord v Estudiantes, 2-2, 1-0
1971 Nacional v Panathinaikos, 1-1, 2-1
1972 Ajax v Independiente, 1-1, 3-0
1973 Independiente v Juventus, 1-0 (only one match played)
1974 Atletico Madrid v Independiente, 0-1, 2-0
1975 not played
1976 Bayern Munich v Cruzeiro, 2-0, 0-0
1977 Boca Juniors v Borussia Monchengladbach, 2-2, 3-0
1978 not played
1979 Olimpia v Malmo, 1-0, 2-1
1980 Nacional v Nottingham Forest, 1-0
1981 Flamengo v Liverpool, 3-0
1982 Penarol v Aston Villa, 2-0
1983 Gremio v Hamburg, 2-1
1984 Independiente v Liverpool, 1-0
1985 Juventus v Argentinos Juniors, 2-2 (Juventus 4-2 on pens)
1986 River Plate v Steaua Bucharest, 1-0
1987 FC Porto v Penarol, 2-1 (aet)
1988 Nacional v PSV Eindhoven, 2-2 (Nacional 7-6 on pens)
1989 Milan v Atletico Nacional, 1-0 (aet)
1990 Milan v Olimpia, 3-0
1991 Red Star Belgrade v Colo Colo, 3-0
1992 Sao Paulo v Barcelona, 2-1
1993 Sao Paulo v Milan, 3-2
1994 Velez Sarsfield v Milan, 2-0
1995 Ajax v Gremio, 0-0 (Ajax 4-3 on pens)
1996 Juventus v River Plate, 1-0
1997 Borussia Dortmund v Cruzeiro, 2-0
1998 Real Madrid v Vasco da Gama, 2-1
1999 Manchester United v Palmeiras, 1-0

(In 1971, 1973, 1974, 1977 and 1979 the European Cup runners-up took part after the European Cup winners declined to play)

CNN WORLD SOCCER

CLUB OF THE MONTH



TOP 10 STANDINGS

		pts
1	Lazio	489
2	Man United	475
3	Bayern Munich	316
4	Barcelona	288
5	River Plate	275
6	Juventus	227
7	Roma	175
8	Lyon	76
9	Real Madrid	68
10	Deportivo La Coruna	53

Q&A Robert Waseige Right place,

Belgium's national coach talks to Klaas-Jan Droppert

BELGIUM's footballing fate lies in the hands of a 60-year old. After a bad start to the preparations for the European Championship, including five consecutive 1-0 defeats and a disturbed relationship between the coach and many players, the FA decided to sack Georges Leekens and appoint a near-pensioner, Robert Waseige.

He has had 28 years of coaching experience with Winterslag, Standard Liege, Club Liege, Lokeren, Sporting Lisbon and Charleroi. Now he has to restore order in the national team and make the co-hosting *Diables Rouges* worthy competitors in Euro 2000.

WORLD SOCCER: Was it your ambition to be coach of the Belgian national team?

WASEIGE: Not at all. You can't plan a career in football. Last year my spell at Charleroi was one of the darkest periods in my career. I needed time off to enjoy the game again. By the time the FA knocked on my door, I was fresh – they came to me at just the right moment.

This is a fantastic job. We reached an agreement quickly and easily. Whether I stay as coach after Euro 2000 is an open question. That depends on the results. Right now I don't want to take advantage of the situation by claiming a long-term contract.

You're the first Walloon national coach.

So what? That means nothing to me. I'm from Liege but I have many friends in Flanders. Those conflicts are ridiculous, although I admit it's a serious matter. But people who worked together in the mines, and fought in two World Wars, now suddenly can't live together? I find that hard to believe.

But it would be stupid to complain about the country's first French-speaking coach almost before he has even started. They should watch my team play and look at the results, and then judge if I'm capable of doing the job or not.

Since you took over, the national team has been reborn. What has changed under your guidance?

First of all we play a 4-4-2 system. My job is to convince the players that this is the system they should believe in. It's not that I chose it without foundation. To me, 4-4-2 is the most balanced method.

At last we have strikers suitable for playing this system. Emile Mpenza and Branko Strupar had never played together before but they complement each other wonderfully. That means we can put the accent on the front instead of on our defence as we have done throughout our entire history until now. Finally, the players are enjoying wearing the national team's shirt again. And fun is the foundation of good performances.

Best foot forward...Waseige's revitalised Belgium take on Italy

You are in a strange situation. Johan Walem [Parma], Luis Oliveira [Cagliari] and Danny Boffin [Metz] are key players in internationally-respected teams, but there is no place for them in your starting line-up.

I can't select somebody on his references. I'm a realist and playing 4-4-2 is the best option for the team. So where should Walem play? With his qualities he's only fit for the two central midfield positions. Unlike Marc Wilmots, he hasn't got the power that is necessary to perform as an attacking midfielder. And at the moment Yves Vanderhaeghe is a better controlling midfielder. That's why Walem isn't in the starting line-up.

So far Strupar and Mpenza have teamed perfectly, so there is no reason to bring in Oliveira. But just like Regis Genaux [Udinese], he won't be forgotten

A giant among giants

Tim Vickery was one of the last journalists to speak

"BRAZILIAN football has only developed from the tunnel to the pitch." The phrase was coined by Flavio Costa, and remains a pertinent comment on Brazil's off-field disorganisation. For the progress made on the pitch, much credit was due to Costa, who died on November 23.

After playing for nearly a decade, Costa took up coaching in 1934. He was a mixture of psychologist, strong man and tactical thinker. His influence on the game's evolution was immense.

At Flamengo, Costa instigated changes which led to the birth of the modern back four. He also pioneered the 4-2-4 system later used with such success by the Brazilian national team.

Costa's own time in charge of Brazil was mixed. Although he won the 1949 Copa America, he was unable to lead the country to World Cup glory, as hosts, the following year.

Many look on the 1950 side as Brazil's finest, but they fell at the last in the deciding game against Uruguay. Costa said: "We had a team which played wonderfully on the way to the final. But football is decided by goals, and on the day the nervousness of the crowd transmitted itself to the players. Uruguay found a gap in our defence. There were no substitutions at that

right time

and will be observed closely. As for Boffin, he has a great sporting mentality but isn't one for the future. In Van Kerckhoven, Goor, Oyen and Hendrikx I've got players who are much younger.

Six players [Scifo, Nilis, De Bilde, Albert, Van Meir and Claessens] refused to play in the national team as long as Leekens stayed as the coach. Now that he's gone, what are you going to do about this situation?
That was the first question the press asked after my appointment. Am I obliged to act? Everybody is entitled to quit. Anyway, I spoke to all of them, although the press were interested only in Nilis and Scifo. Three of the six [Scifo, Van Meir and De Bilde] have since said that they were available again. But it wasn't my intention to let them return so soon. Then, for the match against England, a number of injuries forced me to select Van Meir and De Bilde.

Enzo Scifo isn't the type of player who will sit dutifully on the bench.
That is speculation. Why wouldn't he? If he is fully recovered and gets his old form back, he will be incredibly valuable for the team. But I'm not going to adapt my tactics to Scifo, just because I like him as a person. At the moment the only thing that counts for me is that he has declared himself available again, and that's a positive sign.

Football in Belgium is in a dead-end street at present, with no contenders in the Champions League and all teams eliminated from the UEFA Cup before the third round had even started. Does that make your job more complicated?
In the short term it does. We lose contact with top-class football and that disturbs our progression. We have to be patient, although I don't know if things will be better in future. Not every solution lies on the football pitch – it certainly has a lot to do with money. But if nations such as the Czech Republic and Norway have top teams competing, why wouldn't that be possible for Belgium?

However, we should keep our own character while trying to gain more confidence and aggressiveness. It's up to us to find the right mixture between ambition and realism.

Experts say that reaching the second round of Euro 2000 is all that will be possible for Belgium. What is your opinion?
I hope that the bond between the team and the Belgian people will be tighter during Euro 2000. If people are satisfied, I don't say overjoyed, we will have performed well. Maybe even with some good results. But I'm not making prognostications.

That's why, in my life, I've never bought a ticket for the national lottery. I prefer a good cigar.

to Brazilian coach Flavio Costa, who died recently aged 93

time, so I couldn't do anything about it. Our defeat caused the Brazilian people great sadness. Nearly half a century later they don't let me forget."

Few were as well placed as Flavio Costa to judge a century of football. He never stopped following the game, and his mind was sharp to the end.

"Football has changed so much," he said, "through things like physical development and the use of fouls. Nowadays it's harder for the individual to shine. I'm happy that my time as a coach coincided with an age when it was easier for the great player to stamp his personality on the game. I saw the best at close range."

When I closed the interview – one of the very last he gave – I apologised for taking his time. "Not at all," he said. "You've given me the chance to remember things which give me pleasure."

An extraordinary man.

ESM ELEVEN
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
NOVEMBER 1999

HOW THEY LINE UP

Kahn (3, Bayern); Mihajlovic (3, Lazio), Matthaus (3, Bayern), Babayaro (2, Chelsea); Mostovoi (4, Celta), Totti (3, Roma), Anderson (3, Lyon), Scholes (4, Man U), Djalminha (5, Deportivo); Batistuta (3, Fiorentina), Claudio Lopez (5, Valencia).

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (PORTUGAL)

Kahn (Bayern); Scaloni (Deportivo), Stam (Man U), Nadal (Mallorca), Juan Fran (Celta); Davids (Juve), Scholes (Man U), Mostovoi (Celta), Djalminha (Deportivo); Delvecchio (Roma), Jardel (Porto).

DON BALON (SPAIN)

Buffon (Parma); Petrescu (Chelsea), Montero (Juve), Mihajlovic (Lazio); Scholes (Man U), Mostovoi (Celta), Djalminha (Deportivo), Overmars (Arsenal); Raul (Real Madrid), Batistuta (Fiorentina), Claudio Lopez (Valencia).

FOOT (BELGIUM)

Kahn (Bayern); Ferrara (Juve), Matthaus (Bayern), Hyypia (Liverpool), Babayaro (Chelsea); Scholes (Man U), Totti (Roma), Del Piero (Juve), Djalminha (Deportivo); Claudio Lopez (Valencia), Anderson (Lyon).

FRANCE FOOTBALL

Dutruel (Celta); Torricelli (Fiorentina), Naybet (Deportivo), Matthaus (Bayern), Candela (Roma); Zahovic (Olympiakos), Skammelsrud (Rosenborg), Deschamps (Chelsea), Gallardo (Monaco); Claudio Lopez (Valencia), Batistuta (Fiorentina).

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)

Vitor Baia (Porto); Ferrer (Chelsea), Repka (Fiorentina), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Zenden (Barcelona); Keane (Man U), Scholes (Man U), Rui Costa (Fiorentina); Morientes (Real Madrid), Claudio Lopez (Valencia).

KICKER (GERMANY)

Kahn (Bayern); Ferrara (Juve), Adams (Arsenal), Montero (Juve), Candela (Roma); Mostovoi (Celta), Djorkaeff (Kaiserslautern), Totti (Roma), Djalminha (Deportivo); Delvecchio (Roma), Gustavo Lopez (Celta).

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOLLAND)

Coupet (Lyon); Cafu (Roma), Leboeuf (Chelsea), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Georgatos (Inter); Karpin (Celta), Mostovoi (Celta), Mendieta (Valencia), Djalminha (Deportivo); Anderson (Lyon), Delvecchio (Roma).

WORLD SOCCER

Kiraly (Hertha); Blondeau (Marseille), Matthaus (Bayern), Radebe (Leeds), Babayaro (Chelsea); Raul (Real Madrid), Sforza (Kaiserslautern), Totti (Roma), Donovan (Leverkusen); Batistuta (Fiorentina), Anderson (Lyon).

FINANCIAL FOOTBALL

The media move in

...but their deals are under scrutiny, says Simon Banks

IN THIS column in September 1998, we predicted that the process of vertical integration between media companies and football clubs would accelerate as competition between rival broadcasters increased.

Later that month BSkyB launched its bid to buy Manchester United and, although that was blocked by the government, it marked the beginning of a series of deals between clubs and broadcasters throughout Europe.

While French channel M6's purchase of a majority stake in Bordeaux, CLT-Ufa's complex deal with Sampdoria, and the investment in the Stream digital platform by Lazio, Roma, Parma and Fiorentina are very different in detail, they all follow the same commercial logic that media companies and football clubs should join forces in order to extract the optimum value from TV audiences.

The proliferation of club TV channels and the buying of minority stakes in clubs by broadcasters, as in the case of BSkyB and Manchester United, Manchester City and Leeds, are further examples of this phenomenon.

We would be wrong to assume, however, that this is a straightforward process that will result in the clubs simply getting richer. There are two very important factors that may slow the process. Firstly there are the regulators – the EU,governments, national federations and UEFA – who are looking at the relationship between football and the media. The EU's Competition Commission has said it is investigating the BSkyB/Leeds deal, while the British government has cited the importance of sports TV rights as the justification for its investigation into the purchase of Cable & Wireless by NTL. The Italian government passed a law limiting broadcasters to 60 per cent of available football rights, while the German cartel office has been investigating the sale of Bundesliga rights for more than a year.

In England the Premier League has forced BSkyB to reduce its stake in Manchester United to below 10 per cent, as is demanded by its rules. Meanwhile, UEFA's ruling against ENIC's dual ownership of Sparta Prague and AEK Athens surely must apply to media companies, too, and it therefore follows that UEFA will not allow anybody, media company or not, to have control of more than one club in the same competition.

The economics of the European media industry itself also mitigate against the process of vertical integration. Already some analysts have warned that some media companies are in danger of over-stretching themselves as they sink more and more of their resources into acquiring football rights.

In Spain peace has broken out between Via Digital and Canal Satellite in the battle for football rights, with the two rivals agreeing to share the rights rather than bid against each other. In England the recently-announced merger between Carlton and United News & Media means that the combined entity will now have the resources to bid against BSkyB for Premier League rights when they come up for renewal in 2001.

The deal that everyone is waiting for, though, is the often-mooted merger of BSkyB and Canal Plus. Although both parties insist that a deal is unlikely, if it were to happen the implications for football would be immense, because the new company would become the dominant broadcaster in four of the five major European markets: Spain, Italy, England and France. If its influence was then commensurate with its size, it would in effect own European football.

The revolution in the finances of the game that took place during the 1990s was driven by the battle between broadcasters for satellite subscribers. Similarly, the battle for digital subscribers will have a momentous effect on football in the new millennium. There will be a revolution, and it will be televised.

Simon Banks writes for Soccer Investor (0171-329 3500)

Media-Club tie-ups

UK
- Manchester Utd/BSkyB
- Leeds Utd/BSkyB
- Manchester City/BSkyB
- Newcastle/NTL
- Hearts/SMG

FRANCE
- PSG/Canal Plus
- Lyon/Path
- Bordeaux/M6

SWITZERLAND
- Servette/Canal Plus

GERMANY
- Borussia Dortmund/Ufa

ITALY
- Milan/Mediaset
- Fiorentina/Cecchi Gori (TMC)
- Lazio, Roma, Fiorentina, Parma/SDS
- Sampdoria/CLT-Ufa

GREECE
- AEK Athens/NetMed

Losing face without Law

WE all make mistakes. This sort of thing happens to everybody. But in the end there's no excuse for what we did. In last month's issue we printed the results of our readers' poll to find the century's top players – and we left out Denis Law. Yes, THE Denis Law.

We're sorry. For the record, Law got 178 points, which put him in joint 32nd place alongside Gordon Banks among the world's top players. And there's a coincidence if ever there was one – for Law scored four goals at Wembley in four games for three teams – twice for Scotland, once for the Rest of the World, and once for Manchester United against Leicester in the 1963 FA Cup Final – and Banks was the opposing goalkeeper every time.

Big guns at a glance

WE were unable to fit this in last month, but we think it's interesting enough to go in this time.

According to the votes cast in our readers' poll, the Top 10 in each of four categories of players during this century are:

	GOALKEEPERS	DEFENDERS	MIDFIELDERS	FORWARDS
1	Yashin	Moore	Beckenbauer	Pele
2	Banks	Baresi	Platini	Maradona
3	Schmeichel	P Maldini	Hagi	Cruyff
4	Zoff	Roberto Carlos	Zidane	Di Stefano
5	Chilavert	Passarella	Matthaus	Puskas
6	Zamora	Facchetti	Rivelino	Best
7	Maier	Hansen	Didi	Van Basten
8	Jennings	Kohler	Beckham	Eusebio
9	Southall	Stam	Rivaldo	R Charlton
10	Trautmann	N Santos	Rijkaard	Ronaldo

Boyd – off in no time

THE dismissal of Walter Boyd in a recent English Third Division game is thought to be the quickest in the history of football.

Quick exit...Walter Boyd

The Jamaican international went on as a late substitute for Swansea in the home game against Darlington but was sent off for swinging an arm at opposition midfielder Martin Gray before play had resumed.

Though Boyd had been on the field for the best part of a minute, his participation time will be recorded as 'zero seconds' because the ball had not been kicked by the time he was shown the red card.

The previous record was set in 1990 when Bologna's Giuseppe Lorenzo was dismissed after just 10 seconds.

Libero ROUND-UP

Crocked...Ronaldo

Ronaldo out; Ravanelli back

Ronaldo is likely to miss the rest of the season after undergoing knee surgery in Paris at the end of November. The Brazilian damaged tendons when his studs caught in the turf during Inter's 6-0 Serie A defeat of Lecce.

Fabrizio Ravanelli is set to steal some of the limelight in Ronaldo's continued absence from the Italian game. Ravanelli agreed to join Lazio from Marseille for some £1.6million.

COACHES ON THE MOVE

ALBANIA coach **Astrit Hafizi** was sacked by the federation despite his team winning their final Euro 2000 qualifier, against Georgia.

Tarmo Ruutli, who recently guided Tulevik Viljandi to a second-place finish in the Estonian League, has been put in temporary charge of the national team until the end of the year.

Former Benfica coach **Manuel Jose** has taken over at Portuguese side Uniao Leiria, following the sacking of **Mario Reis**.

Elsewhere in Portugal, Salgueiros boss **Dito** stepped down after his team lost 2-0 to Alverca in the League.

Rwanda have appointed 72-year-old German **Rudi Gutendorf** as their new national coach.

Gutendorf's compatriot, **Burkhard Pappe**, is now in charge of Tanzania.

Luciano Spalletti returned to take charge of Venezia following the dismissal of his successor, **Giuseppe Materazzi**, after just a month in charge.

In Greece, Dutchman **Arie Haan** was sacked by PAOK.

Viktor Prokopenko has left Russian side Rotor Volgograd to succeed Anatoly Byshovets at Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk. Prokopenko's successor at Rotor is **Georgi Yartsev**, sacked by Moscow Dynamo midway through last season.

Elsewhere in Russia, **Valery Gazzayev** stepped down at Alaniya Vladikavkaz after eight years in charge. His successor is ex-Georgia coach **Vladimir Gutsaev**.

Cruzeiro sacked **Levir Culpi** after the team were knocked out of the Brazilian championship quarter-finals.

In the USA, MetroStars have signed up Ecuadorian **Octavio Zambrano** to succeed Bora Milutinovic. Zambrano recently led Los Angeles Galaxy to contest the MLS Cup.

COACHES STAYING ON

BORUSSIA DORTMUND boss **Michael Skibbe** has extended his contract until 2002, as has **Otto Rehhagel** at Kaiserslautern.

Bulgaria boss **Dimitar Dimitrov** has also agreed to stay on until 2002.

To Lazio...Ravanelli

OUT OF ACTION

BAYERN MUNICH'S **Thomas Strunz** could miss the rest of the season after suffering a serious knee injury.

TRANSFERS

		FROM	TO
Mohammed Al-Deayea	G	Al Tai	Al Hilal
Andreas Alm	M	Kongsvinger	AIK Stockholm
Celso Ayala	D	Betis Sevilla	Atletico Madrid
Marko Babic	M	Osijek	Bayer Leverkusen
Ahmad Bahja	F	Al Wasl	Al Nassr
Mario Basler	M	Bayern Munich	Kaiserslautern
Craig Burley	M	Celtic	Derby
Igor Cvitanovic	F	Real Sociedad	Croatia Zagreb
Billy Dodds	F	Dundee United	Rangers
Xavier Gravelaine	M	Paris Saint-Germain	Watford
Tomas Gustafsson	D	AIK Stockholm	Coventry
Bjorn Johansen	M	Tromso	Helsingborgs
Teddy Lucic	D	Bologna	AIK Stockholm
Thomas Myhre	G	Everton	Rangers (loan)
Georgi Nemsadze	D	Reggiana	Lokomotiv Tbilisi
Krister Nordin	M	AIK Stockholm	Brondby
Tero Penttila	D	FC Haka	Rangers
Gordan Petric	D	AEK Athens	Hearts
Romario	F	Flamengo	Vasco da Gama
Arild Stavrum	F	Helsingborgs	Aberdeen
Magnus Svensson	M	Viking Stavanger	Brondby
Oleg Teryokhin	F	Moscow Dynamo	Lokomotiv Moscow
Emmanuel Tetteh	F	IFK Gothenburg	Vanspor
Mattias Thylander	D	Malmo	AIK Stockholm
Hannu Tihinen	D	HJK Helsinki	Viking Stavanger
Jurica Vranjes	M	Osijek	Bayer Leverkusen
Philipp Weissenberger	F	Hard Vorarlberg	Bayer Leverkusen

There were fears that Liverpool's **Jamie Redknapp** would be out for three months after a knee operation revealed that damage to his cartilage was more serious than at first thought.

Mallorca's Argentinian goalkeeper **German Burgos** has been banned for 11 games after punching Espanyol forward Manuel Serrano when the ball was out of play.

In Georgia, Lokomotiv Tbilisi's **Georgi Balashvili** has been banned for the rest of the season, which ends in May, after kicking a referee. The incident occurred during the Tbilisi derby when Dynamo were awarded a late penalty.

Cruciate knee ligament damage has put Rangers forward **Michael Mols** out for the rest of the season, while another striker at Ibrox, **Jonatan Johansson**, seems certain to be missing for at least three months after damaging ankle ligaments.

Fiorentina's **Predrag Mijatovic** looks likely to miss two months after undergoing surgery on his left ankle.

Michele Padovano, Metz's Italian forward, broke an ankle in a League game against Troyes and will be out for at least six weeks.

German defender **Gerhard Poschner** could be sidelined for six months after breaking a leg playing for Rayo Vallecano against Athletic Bilbao.

Everton midfielder **Joe Parkinson** has announced his retirement from the game because of knee trouble.

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

CHELSEA defender **Albert Ferrer** was included in the Spain squad for the friendlies against Brazil and Argentina, having not played for his country since the defeat by Nigeria at France 98.

Werder Bremen defender **Frank Baumann** was included in the Germany squad for the first time for the friendly against Norway.

Joos Valgaeren, a defender with Dutch side Roda JC, was called into the Belgium squad for the first time, for the friendly against Italy.

Forward **Kazuyoshi Miura** was included in a Japanese international squad for the first time in 18 months. He has not featured since being dropped just before France 98.

Yugoslavia manager Vujadin Boskov has said there is no future for **Dragan Stojkovic** and **Dejan Savicevic** in his plans.

Tony Cascarino has confirmed that his international career is at an end. The Republic of Ireland forward won the last of his 88 caps in the Euro 2000 play-off against Turkey in Bursa.

Australian midfielder **Ned Zelic** announced his retirement from international football after being left out of the national side's second game against Brazil. He played in the first match, a 2-0 defeat.

OTHER NEWS

ARSENAL and Nigeria's **Nwankwo Kanu** was named African Footballer of the Year ahead of Sammy Kuffour (Ghana & Bayern Munich) and Ibrahima Bakayoko (Ivory Coast & Marseille). Kanu also won the award in 1996.

The Player of the Year award in Belarus was won by Roma midfielder **Sergei Gurenko**.

OBITUARY

Alibadara Keita, who played in three African Nations Cup finals for Guinea and was a member of the Haifa club that won the African Champions Cup in 1972, 1975 and 1977, has died of heart attack.

Libero BOOKS

The monthly page rounding up the best (and worst) in football publishing

BOOK OF THE MONTH

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL: A FAN'S HANDBOOK 1999-2000

by Peterjon Cresswell and Simon Evans

(Rough Guides, £12.99)

IF ANY proof were needed that the world is becoming a smaller place, it comes with the third edition of Rough Guides' commendable effort on the European game.

The new edition takes the same format as previous versions, and has been updated and revised. But it still takes as its basic tenet the need to fill the yawning gap left by conventional travel guides when covering spectator sports, notably soccer.

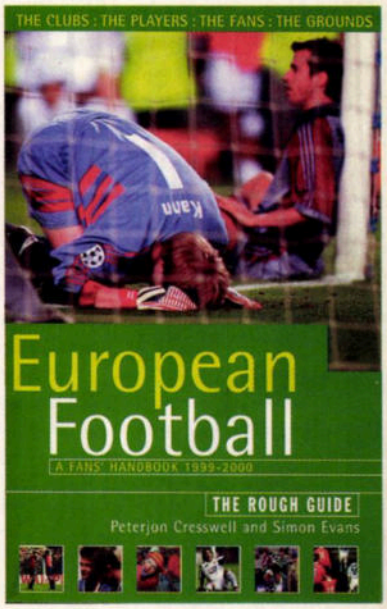
For anybody visiting a major European city, the Rough Guide will be invaluable. The authors have left no stone unturned in their quest to find the best bar/club shop/ticket office in more than 70 towns and cities across the Continent.

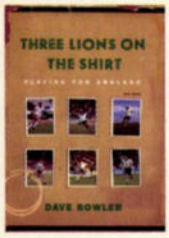
My only quibble is that the book, like its previous editions, does not cover any country in its entirety. So we get a guide to Belgian football that covers Brussels and Bruges, but no other destinations. And a chapter on Turkey that features only Istanbul.

Doubtless the authors did not have the resources to visit every club in every country, but a few lines on smaller clubs, particularly those in tourist centres around the Mediterranean, would not have gone amiss.

Nevertheless, there is still much for the serious follower of European football to enjoy.

Gavin Hamilton





SCHMEICHEL

by Peter Schmeichel

(Virgin, £16.99)

THIS is rather more than a run-of-the-mill autobiography, if only because of the detailed statistics and the index – something that so many soccer books lack.

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson believes that Schmeichel is the best goalkeeper ever to play the game: a giant claim, but one that is supported, to some extent, by Schmeichel's amazing record of success during his eight years at Old Trafford.

He and his ghost writer, Egon Balsby, do not give many secrets away, but they have put together an entertaining and informative read. However, at £17 for 230 pages (including the aforementioned index and stats) it cannot be truly described as a bargain.

United fans and devotees of Denmark will love it. The rest of us are likely to be more jealous than joyful.

David Prole

UNITED! DESPATCHES FROM OLD TRAFFORD

Richard Kurt

(Mainstream, £9.99)

A COLLECTION of United fanzine material by "the secretive and pseudonymous" author, who has been writing about soccer since as long ago as 1992. In this time he has written seven books about Manchester United, proving yet again that where Old Trafford is concerned, any old garbage will be joyfully received.

The bias is laughably extreme, the contempt for rival clubs is self-demeaning, and the language is frequently appalling. Read it and weep.

David Prole

THREE LIONS ON THE SHIRT

by Dave Bowler

(Gollancz, £18.99)

SOME years ago Dave Bowler wrote an interesting biography of Bill Shankly, but I remember thinking at the time that the author was too young for his subject: he had not lived through many of the experiences that Shankly had known at first hand.

The same applies to this, his fifth book. I do not know how old Mr Bowler is these days, but his scarce first-hand knowledge of much of what he is writing about lets him down.

Any author who cannot tell a photo of Dixie Dean from one of Nat Lofthouse, taken 24 years later on a different ground, and accuses Stan Mortensen (nicknamed 'Electric heels') of lacking speed, cannot be too surprised if elderly readers greet his offerings with a wry smile. Which is a pity, because this in general is a most enjoyable book, with some wonderful anecdotes.

It's a biography of the England team, highs, lows and middles, over more than a century since they started to take the game around the world, and a lot of it is splendid stuff.

I do not expect that every reader will agree with every alleged fact (the China Jump club incident was NOT an irrelevance), but Mr Bowler is not afraid to make his points, or to argue his case, with due emphasis.

But why is the back half of the dust-jacket printed upside-down?

David Prole

TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

by Peter Bishop

(Tempus Publishing, £9.99)

THIS is only one in a growing series of small books produced in the Images of England series, but it is one with a difference.

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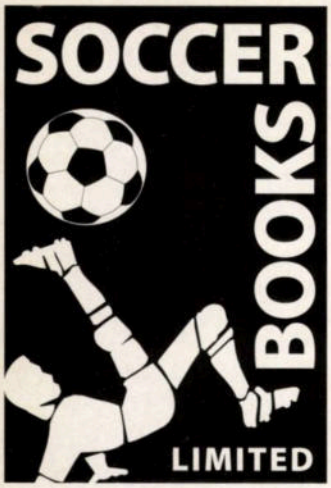

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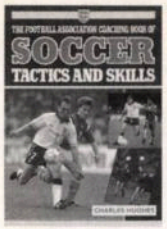

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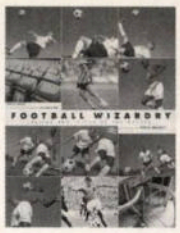

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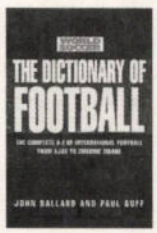

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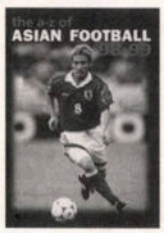

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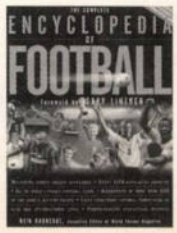

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Revamp...Rio's famous but decaying Maracana stadium has been overhauled for January's tournament...

Flawed from the start

Brian Homewood in Rio de Janeiro finds a lot to worry about as he sets the scene for FIFA's new tournament

FIFA is describing it as the inaugural World Club Championship, but the controversial new competition in Brazil looks more like one of those European pre-season mini-tournaments in which teams take part by invitation.

English indignation over Manchester United's withdrawal from the FA Cup to allow them to take part, and all-round criticism of the event's timing, in the middle of the European season and at the height of the Brazilian summer, have tended to overshadow a bigger, more fundamental flaw. Namely, that only half the teams taking part are the present champions of their respective continents.

'Only half the teams taking part in the tournament are the present champions of their respective continents'

If Manchester United (European champions), Necaxa (Central/North America), South Melbourne (Oceania) and either Esperance or Raja Casablanca (Africa) believe they are travelling to Brazil to pit themselves against the legitimate champions of the other continents, they will be sorely disappointed.

Where, for example, are Palmeiras, reigning champions of South America? Rather unwisely, FIFA decided to allow the continental confederations to nominate their representatives. The South American Confederation delegated the decision to the Brazilian FA (CBF).

Sadly but predictably, the CBF, which also was allowed to pick a team as hosts, did not even wait for this year's Libertadores Cup Final between Palmeiras and Deportivo Cali before announcing that Vasco da Gama, who won that competition in 1998, would be the South American representatives, and that Corinthians, Brazilian championship winners in 1998, would be the host nation's team.

It so happens that Corinthians are from Sao Paulo while Vasco are based in Rio, the two cities which share all the matches. How convenient.

Waiting for the outcome of this year's competitions would have been fairer and brought greater value to the competition. But it would have meant running the risk that Deportivo Cali of Colombia could win the Libertadores and that a team from outside Rio and Sao Paulo could have won the Brazilian championship. Either would have spelt disaster for the CBF.

Its president, Ricardo Teixeira, and his crew want to use the hosting of the event to boost their flagging campaign to host the 2006 World Cup. The last thing they need is for games to be played in deserted stadia.

While Brazilians are famed for being football fanatics, they are no more likely than anyone else to turn out to watch Deportivo Cali play Al Nassr, or Atletico Mineiro meet South Melbourne.

For the same reason, all matches will be played on double bills. Therefore, when South Melbourne meet Necaxa at Maracana, there will be a much better chance of a decent-sized crowd because the game follows straight after the Vasco da Gama-Manchester United match.

Palmeiras are not the only legitimate champions missing. The Asian federation has nominated Al Nassr, winners of the 1998 Asian Supercup, as their team, and Real Madrid have been allowed in on the pretext that they won the World Club Cup in Tokyo last year.

Perhaps it is just wishful thinking nowadays to expect a tournament for champions to feature only champions. Look at the UEFA Champions League, which is anything but what its name suggests.

Good old Necaxa appear, on the surface, to be a rare and welcome exception: Televisa's ugly ducklings are in Brazil by virtue of winning the CONCACAF Champions Cup for which they qualified by winning the 1998 Mexican Winter Championship. But if that seems impressive, then look at the format of the domestic tournament they won. The 18 teams, split into four groups, played all the other 17 clubs once. So while Necaxa finished top of their pool, they actually won a full eight points fewer than Cruz Azul.

No matter, as group winners, Necaxa went

...but the facelift has not hidden everything

forward into the quarter-finals, played on a knockout basis, and went on to win the Final, while Cruz Azul never made it beyond the last eight. So much for the idea of the best team winning the national championship (there are two a year in Mexico).

Then there is the danger of clubs hiring players just for the tournament, as Brazil's Cruzeiro did when they faced Borussia Dortmund in Tokyo in 1997. On that occasion, five of the Cruzeiro players, including Bebeto, were signed exclusively for one game, which Borussia won 2-0. Al Nassr recently tried to borrow Romario from Flamengo just for the competition, then tried to do the same with Cruzeiro's Alex Alves, top scorer in the Brazilian championship at the time of writing with 22 goals, Paulo Nunes of Palmeiras and Dunga of Internacional.

FIFA's response has been somewhat weak, ruling that players can be eligible only if they had signed for their clubs before December 20 and for a minimum period of 90 days. Hardly enough to stop the 'rent-a-team' mentality.

The decision to award the competition to Brazil, where summer temperatures will make merely watching the games a torrid experience, also raised plenty of eyebrows.

The competition has at least provided a lifeline for the decrepit Maracana, finally being given a facelift to make it more presentable. The stadium is owned by the government of Rio de Janeiro state, which has allowed it to deteriorate into a fetid, rat-infested toilet bowl. Hopefully it will now be given a new lease of life. Morumbi, owned by Sao Paulo, is in better condition, having undergone structural improvements to stop the upper tier from wobbling when supporters jump up and down in unison.

The hooligan question remains. Up to 4,000 Manchester United supporters are expected to fly over, most of them on packages, and the optimistic theory is that they will not want to spend thousands simply for the chance to prove themselves against Brazilian thugs. On the other hand, Rio de Janeiro will offer them 24-hour drinking and beer at 35 pence a pint.

And if there is trouble, how will local police react? Their normal approach is to wade in and indiscriminately whack anyone in their path with truncheons, and to fire rubber bullets.

The British authorities seem more worried about Manchester United fans getting into trouble than causing it, and particularly that supporters may inadvertently wander into shanty-towns.

Although the CBF often gives the impression of total incompetence, fears that the competition could descend into chaos probably are unfounded.

The truth is that things tend to work well in Brazil when the political will exists for them to do so. That will be the case here, with Ricardo Teixeira eager to prove to the world that his outfit is worthy of being given responsibility for the 2006 World Cup bid.

● *See World Service for details of the draw.*

Back on the big stage

Keir Radnedge on how Romario has been given a new chance to star in Rio

Switching sides...Romario has left Flamengo for Vasco

A PIECE of diplomacy aimed at fair play for Africa has given Romario the ideal opportunity to burst back on to the international stage at the inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil.

Romario is the controversial but potentially decisive striker who has just left Brazilian club Flamengo for deadly rivals Vasco da Gama.

He had a highly-publicised falling-out with Flamengo after being spotted dancing the night away in a disco, a few hours after a 3-1 defeat by Juventude in Caixas do Sul, southern Brazil, which knocked his club out of the national championship.

President Edmundo Santos Silva said: "Romario went to a nightclub to have a good time while millions of fans were crying at home. The Romario era has finished, against my will. My own heart is sad at this, bleeding and crying."

Romario was furious, saying: "From what I know, I've been kicked out because I went out for the night."

Flamengo's desire to part company with 33-year-old Romario may be connected with claims that they owe him £750,000 in wages. Certainly his national team career is over. Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo has picked him only once in 15 months in charge, even though he was Flamengo's 12-goal top scorer in this year's national championship.

Thus it was doubly surprising when Vasco signed him – because of the inter-club rivalry and because Romario had squabbled earlier this year with Edmundo, Vasco's other temperamental star striker.

Romario could not play for Vasco in the Brazilian championship consolation tournament because he was not registered in time. So it was a surprise when he announced he was looking forward to playing in the World Club Championship because the registration date originally set by FIFA was November 15, a fortnight before his transfer.

That date had been set so as to prevent competing clubs making short-term signings with only the Brazil event in mind.

Asian entrants Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia were the first to object to Romario's prospective appearance in the controversial club event. They protested that Romario could not play for Vasco because the rules did not permit it and because he already had agreed to play for Al Nassr.

Vasco lawyer Paulo Reis denied that Romario had agreed to go to the Gulf, saying: "It is true that Al Nassr faxed Romario an offer and he replied to say he was interested in discussing terms with them. He did not, however, sign anything committing himself to play for them."

So how does Romario qualify when, at the draw in October, the approved competition regulations – which were then published on FIFA's website – stated that all players should have been under contract by mid-November?

Plainly, Romario was not. Yet, suddenly and with little publicity, FIFA had a change of heart. As a spokesman said: "It was thought that the original deadline was not fair on the African representatives, whoever they might turn out to be, because their entry would not be resolved until the middle of December. They should have at least some opportunity to sort out their squad like the other clubs. So it was decided to change the player registration deadline. Certainly it was not done with Romario in mind, though if he benefits, then good luck to him."

Good luck, too, for Vasco.

Al Nassr Group A

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPER
Mohamed KHAWAGALI

DEFENDERS
Abdulaziz AL-JANOUBI
Abdullah AL-QARNI
Hadi AL-SHARIFI
Ibrahim AL-SHOUA'A
MOHSEN Al-Harithi

MIDFIELDERS
Mahdi AL-DOSSARI
Fahad AL-HRIFI
Mansour AL-MOUSSA
Khaled AL-SOWAYLEM
Fuad ANWAR Amin
Ibrahim MATER Al-Harbi
Smahi TRIKI (Mor)

FORWARDS
Nahar AL-DHAFIRI
Mohaysen AL-JAMMAN
Ahmad BAHJA (Mor)
Hussein HADI

TACTICS

Ibrahim Mater

Al Nassr, like many Saudi sides, play a slow-slow-quick-quick-slow game, with the emphasis on a slow build-up, using sweeper Shoua'a, Mater, Triki and Anwar to create chances for Moroccan striker Ahmad Bahja.

QUESTIONS TO THE COACH

Milan Zivadinovic

● What do you think of the idea of a World Club Championship?
It's a great idea. FIFA deserves compliments for that, because the competition will raise the significance of club football. The tournament in Brazil will be a very strong one. The best teams of all continents will take part and it's a great honour for Al Nassr to be participating.

● Who are your key players?
In defence Ibrahim Shoua'a, who plays libero, and Mohsen. Also the midfielders Ibrahim Mater and the Morocco international Smahi Triki, as well as our latest signing, midfielder Fuad Anwar, Saudi Arabia's captain at France 98.

● Who are your favourites?
Well, certainly Manchester United seem to be the biggest favourite. Of course, one has also to count the two Brazilian teams. But, as we know, surprises are always possible.

● How important is success in Brazil (compared to other competitions)?
A success would be of great importance for us; especially because usually clubs from this region aren't in the limelight of international football. Our ambition is to leave a good impression, just like the Saudi Arabian national team left a solid impression at France 98. As for myself, that I, as a Yugoslav coach, will guide a team in that competition is a big honour indeed.

● How do you feel about Romario signing for Vasco da Gama?
I think that it was really not a serious move of Romario. We will try to find replacements very soon. Actually, we are close to signing two Moroccan internationals, who will stay not only for three weeks, but until the end of the season.

Interview: Vladimir Novak

Low expectations

The Saudi side are likely to struggle, writes Michael Church

Supercup heroes...Al Nassr line up for the cameras

WHEN Saudi Arabian side Al Nassr were selected to take part in Brazil, there were howls of derision from those who cared about who would represent Asia in the competition.

Al Nassr booked their place by winning the 1998 Asian Supercup, long before it had been deemed the official qualifier for the tournament.

The Saudis had won the right to contest the Supercup, in which they beat South Korea's Pohang Steelers, by lifting the Asian Cup-winners Cup in April 1998, defeating Suwon Bluewings, also of Korea.

That win too was surrounded in controversy, the winning goal coming from Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, who the club had signed on a two-match contract especially for the Final.

Stoichkov was not on hand to help Al Nassr in the Asian Supercup but even without him they managed to win on away goals after drawing 1-1 in Korea with Pohang and then holding on for a 0-0 draw in Riyadh.

The real controversy came, however, long after Al Nassr had won the trophy. Asian Club Champions Jubilo Iwata of Japan were incensed when they were passed over for the Brazil trip in favour of the Saudis.

Initially it had been suggested that the Asian representatives would be the winners of the 1999 Supercup, but the confederation decided that that team would not have enough time to prepare properly for the competition in January 2000. Ironically, Jubilo went on to win the trophy against Al Ittihad, Al Nassr's compatriots.

As for Al Nassr, their form following their Asian Supercup win has been poor. Last season they finished fifth in the Saudi League, one place short of qualifying for the championship play-offs. The result almost cost legendary Saudi striker Majed Abdullah his job as team manager, but an up-turn in their fortunes this year under coach Milan Zivadinovic, recently in charge of Yugoslavia, has seen them start the League campaign challenging Al Ittihad.

But Al Nassr's chances of success in Sao Paulo are low. The club lack quality players, although they have gone some way to solving that problem by signing former Saudi captain Fuad Anwar and Moroccan striker Ahmad Bahja, formerly of bitter cross-city rivals Al Hilal.

Even so, hopes are not high.

THE VIEW FROM SAUDI ARABIA

Mohammed Hamade of the Al Hayat *newspaper and a former Asian Football Writer of the Year*

"Al Nassr are not a good team – even with Fuad Anwar and Ahmad Bahja. They only have one player in the Saudi national team starting line-up – Ibrahim Mater – and that gives some indication of where they are at the moment. Against the other teams in this world championship they can't win, but I'm sure they won't lose by five or six goals. They are not strong but they won't be beaten easily."

Corinthians Group A

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS	MIDFIELDERS
DIDA	EDU
MAURICIO	GILMAR
DEFENDERS	LUIZ MARIO
AUGUSTO	MARCELINHO CARIOCA
BATATA	MARCOS SENNA
CESAR PRATES	RICARDINHO
CREISLER	Freddy RINCON (Col)
INDIO	ROMEU
JOAO CARLOS	VAMPETA
KLEBER	**FORWARDS**
LUCIANO	ANDREZINHO
MARCELO	DINEI
MARCIO COSTA	EDILSON
NENE	EWERTHON
Andre SANTOS	FERNANDO BAIANO
	LUIZAO

TACTICS

Corinthians are basically an attacking side, which is just as well given the vulnerability of their central defence. Edilson and Luizao are prominent, the former running all over the place to set up chances and the latter rarely straying from the opposition's penalty area.

In midfield, Vampeta and Rincon, who is now playing much deeper than at any time in his career, play in front of the defence, with Ricardinho, on the left, and Marcelinho Carioca, on the right, providing the invention. The big worry is the centre of the defence, where Nene, Joao Carlos and Marcio Costa all have been unable to perform consistently well.

Goalkeeper Dida is a specialist at saving penalties, and has stopped seven this year for club and country, though he is somewhat slow when moving off his line.

FOCUS ON THE COACH

Oswaldo de Oliveira

The Corinthians coach is a man of few words and did not want to talk about the World Club Championship. His efforts are focused currently on the Brazilian championship, in which Corinthians have reached the Final. All he would say about events in January was: "The evening meal looks wonderful but we still have to have lunch first."

He also made some general comments about his priorities for next year: "There's no point in having a large squad and trying to win everything; look at the example of Palmeiras this year."

Oliveira was annoyed when one club director said that former Gremio defender Adilson had been signed to reinforce the defence.

"This type of news could upset the atmosphere in a team fully concentrated on the Brazilian championship Final. It is necessary to keep up the morale of the players who are involved in this decision."

Fine attack, awful defence

Brian Homewood on the Sao Paulo contenders who rarely appear outside Brazil

CORINTHIANS have wriggled into the World Club Championship without ever going close to winning an international competition. The club, feared within Brazil, have a surprisingly poor record against foreign opposition. In a mere four Libertadores Cup campaigns, they have never gone beyond the last eight.

Despite this, Corinthians were put forward for the new tournament by the CBF, which as host confederation had the right to choose a team. The official reasoning was that Corinthians were the 1998 Brazilian champions. The fact that they play in Sao Paulo and can bring their massive support to the matches at Morumbi is more likely the real reason for their inclusion.

That support is likely to be a crucial factor. Corinthians supporters are less fickle than many in Brazil and are known as 'The Faithful', though they do not always live up to the name.

In an astonishing incident two years ago, a group of Corinthians fans blocked a major highway, ambushed the team bus as it returned to Sao Paulo following a defeat against Santos, and then pelted the vehicle with sticks and stones.

At the time, Corinthians were struggling to avoid relegation. Shortly afterwards, a new coach, Wanderley Luxemburgo, arrived, and in little over one year turned the team into Brazilian champions, earning himself the national team job in the process.

Luxemburgo's former assistant, Oswaldo de Oliveira, is now in charge, although he has hardly had an easy ride. He was sacked one month after stepping into Luxemburgo's shoes, and sent back to his original job. Three months later he was back in the hot seat after his successor, Evaristo Macedo, was also sacked.

The current team is largely the same as the one that won the 1998 national championship. The attack, where prolific scorer Luizao has been added to the cheeky skills of Edilson and Marcelinho Carioca, is one of the liveliest anywhere and is the high point of the team.

Unusually in Brazil, Corinthians also have midfielders who can play and not just destroy, with Vampeta, Colombian captain Freddy Rincon and Ricardinho all ball players.

There is, however, one huge gaping hole. Stylish Paraguayan defender Carlos Gamarra, last year's captain, has moved to Atletico Madrid, and the back four, once the team's strong point, is now the weak link. Not even the signing of Brazil international keeper Dida has been able to offset the decline.

Up front, Marcelinho and Edilson, noted for their blatant dives in the penalty-box, may learn the hard way that non-Brazilian referees are less gullible.

Ball player...Vampeta

THE VIEW FROM BRAZIL

Marcelo Damato of the Folha de Sao Paulo *newspaper*

"Corinthians have no tradition at international level. On the other hand, they are, along with Vasco da Gama, the best team in Brazil at the moment and the one with the best understanding among the players. Corinthians have a good goalkeeper, good attackers and a terrible defence."

Raja Casablanca Group A

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS
Mohamed BOUABDELLAOUI (Alg)
Mustapha CHADLI

DEFENDERS
Hafid ABDESSADEK
Redouane HAIMEUR
Talal KARKOURI
Mohamed KHARBOUCHE

MIDFIELDERS
Zakaria ABOUB
Reda EREYAHI
Abdellatif JRINDROU
Dieudonne LONDO (Gab)
Adil MIKKI
Bouchaib MOUBARKI
Youssef SAFRI
Adil SARRAJ
Jalal ZAGMOUSSE

FORWARDS
Mohamed ARMOUNEN
Mohammed KHOUBBACHE
Mustapha MOUSTAOUDIA
Omar NEJJARY
Tarik RIZKI

TACTICS

Mustapha Moustaoudia

Raja are a physically strong team but with skill and creativity, though they are somewhat naive tactically. Goalkeeper Chadli plays a big part in their defence, along with 26-year-old Haimeur, while Jrindrou's strength as a ball winner is key in supplying the likes of Ereyahi and Moustaoudia. Ereyahi is particularly fast but is often lost in midfield when Raja play their normal 4-3-3 formation. Raja will probably play a more open game against Al Nassr, but look for opportunities on the break when faced with Real Madrid and Corinthians.

QUESTIONS TO THE COACH

Oscar-Luis Fullone

● What do you think of the idea of a World Club Championship?
I'm not sure about all of that because I'm not sure whether I'll be going [to Brazil]. After winning the African championship, all I really want to do is get some sleep and get away from it all.

● Who are your key players?
We had a slim squad of 13 during the African campaign and all of them showed great heart and courage. I had to switch them around because of suspension and injury and they played out of position but with great character.

● Who are your favourites to win?
Oh, it will be the big teams like Real Madrid and Manchester United.

● How important is success in Brazil?
Actually, we were not working towards this tournament or any medals. We were trying to see how far we could get, and qualifying for Brazil is just an absolute bonus.

● You have had some experience of playing and coaching in Britain, haven't you?
Yes, I worked at Aston Villa, Millwall and Sheffield United. I love England, I have good memories of the country and its football.

Surprise qualifiers

Mark Gleeson sees the makeshift Moroccans muddle through

RAJA CASABLANCA scored a stunning upset win over heavily-fancied Esperance of Tunisia to win the African Champions League, even if they needed a shoot-out to secure their victory. A 4-3 win on penalties in Tunis after 180 minutes of football without a goal in the Final gave Raja a second African title in three years.

It was their third Champions League title, the first having been garnered in 1989 when they played in the competition for the first time and then again in 1997, when they also needed penalties to take the trophy.

Final action...Raja take possession from Esperance

Less than four weeks after victory in Africa, Raja will kick off in Brazil, still probably suffering from a hangover from their Champions League triumph. Few had expected them to run out winners after being held to a goalless draw at home in the first encounter in Casablanca.

Suspension and injuries meant Raja took only 13 players to the second leg, with a striker playing at sweeper and third-choice goalkeeper on the bench and kitted out to play outfield if needed. Yet they held firm to upset the odds and earn themselves a pay-day from FIFA that is beyond anything they would earn on the African circuit.

Raja have a remarkable record in the continent's top club competition. They have won it three out of the six times they have played and also added the Afro-Asian Cup to the mantelpiece.

The club was created in 1949 and won promotion to the top flight just two years later. But it took 23 years before the 'Green Devils' won their first honour, Morocco's Throne Cup in 1974. They have won three more cups since and five championships, including the last four years in a row.

Raja's squad includes four fringe internationals – captain Abdellatif Jrindrou, Reda Ereyahi, Mustapha Moustaoudia and goalkeeper Mustapha Chadli, who was in the World Cup squad in France.

THE VIEW FROM AFRICA

Emmanuel Maradas, editor, African Soccer

"Raja certainly have the ability to beat Al Nassr on the basis of what I saw in the first leg of the Champions League Final in Casablanca. But I don't think they will have much ambition beyond that. Getting the £1.5million purse for participation is going to be a big boost for them and for African soccer, and it is going to be a motivating factor for other clubs now, too."

Real Madrid Group A

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS
Albano BIZARRI (Arg)
Iker CASILLAS
Bodo ILLGNER (Ger)

DEFENDERS
Javier DORADO
Fernando HIERRO
IVAN CAMPO Ramos
JULIO CESAR Santos Correa (Bra)
Aitor KARANKA
MICHEL SALGADO Fernandez
ROBERTO CARLOS da Silva (Bra)
Manuel SANCHIS

MIDFIELDERS
ALVARO Benito
GEREMI Ndjitap (Cam)
GUTI
IVAN HELGUERA Bujia
Robert JARNI (Cro)
Christian KAREMBEU (Fra)
Steve McMANAMAN (Eng)
Fernando REDONDO (Arg)
SAVIO Bortolini Pimentel (Bra)
Clarence SEEDORF (Hol)

FORWARDS
Nicolas ANELKA (Fra)
Samuel ETO'O Fils (Cam)
Fernando MORIENTES
RAUL Gonzalez

TACTICS

Real play a straight 4-4-2, with the teenager Casillas preferred in goal to the error-prone Bizarri. Del Bosque has a number of options across the back line, with Roberto Carlos the only constant. Karembeu has recently featured at centre-back and right-back. In midfield, Ivan Helguera plays a central role, while Guti's recent introduction has seen Seedorf relegated to the bench. Baljic's long-term injury has meant more of a role for Savio as an attacking force behind the front pairing of Raul and Morientes. Anelka, when fit, will also feature.

Attack-minded...Savio

QUESTIONS TO THE COACH

Vicente Del Bosque

● How high a priority is the World Club Championship?
Our priorities at the moment are to put an end to the slump in our League form and to make sure we reach the last eight of the Champions League. These are the most pressing matters.

● So you won't be taking the trip to Brazil too seriously?
Well, a good showing in the World Club Championship can in itself play an important part in helping the team regain confidence and serenity. The trip to Brazil gives us the chance to regroup, to get away from the pressure at home and, of course, to compete for a world title, which is an honour the players will not be blase about. We'll go to Brazil to win.

Crisis management

Real could still mount a challenge despite their problems, says Gavin Hamilton

EVEN at Real Madrid, a club who are used to coping with crises, 1999-2000 has been a season which everybody already wants to forget. The trip to Brazil will provide a welcome, if all too brief, respite from the problems back home.

These reached a nadir on December 4 when Real suffered their worst home defeat for 25 years, losing 5-1 to Zaragoza. They slumped to 17th in the Spanish League, just one point above the relegation zone.

Vicente Del Bosque, the veteran coach who stepped in following the resignation of John Toshack, won no prizes for observation when he said: "This is a painful time for all Real Madrid fans."

It has also been rather painful for some of the players. Misfit striker Nicolas Anelka was pelted with stones by supporters when he left training on the Monday following the humiliation by Zaragoza.

As you would expect for a team with the second worst defensive record in the top flight, Real's problems lie at the back. Reserve keeper Albano Bizarri has had a horrendous time filling in for the injured Bodo Illgner. Of the defenders, only Fernando Hierro and Roberto Carlos have escaped harsh criticism.

Spanish national coach Jose Antonio Camacho is the man Real president Lorenzo Sanz wants to appoint in the long term. But Camacho insists he will stay on for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers and will only step down if Spain have a disastrous Euro 2000 tournament.

In the meantime, former coach Jorge Valdano has been approached with a view to becoming general manager. But whether the Argentinian will want to trouble himself with day-to-day coaching matters is debatable.

Ironically, Real's form in a tough Champions League second stage group has been encouraging. A good performance in Brazil – where they compete by dubious virtue of their 1998 World Club Cup win – is by no means beyond them.

Out of the firing line...Roberto Carlos

THE VIEW FROM SPAIN

Juan Pedro Martinez, Editor, Don Balon

"Real Madrid are Spain's most successful team of the century, but they are currently at their lowest point in the century. If they win in Brazil, it might buy a little goodwill for a couple of weeks, but people are not going to forget about the disastrous League position."

Manchester United Group B

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS
Mark BOSNICH (Aus)
Massimo TAIBI (Ita)
Raimond VAN DER GOUW (Hol)

DEFENDERS
Henning BERG (Nor)
Michael CLEGG
Denis IRWIN (Ire)
David MAY
Gary NEVILLE
Philip NEVILLE
Mickael SILVESTRE (Fra)
Jaap STAM (Hol)

MIDFIELDERS
David BECKHAM
Nicky BUTT
Jordi CRUYFF (Hol)
Quinton FORTUNE (SAf)
Ryan GIGGS (Wal)
Roy KEANE (Ire)
Paul SCHOLES

FORWARDS
Andy COLE
Teddy SHERINGHAM
Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER (Nor)
Dwight YORKE (T&T)

TACTICS

Jaap Stam

Ahead of likely first-choice keeper Bosnich, United use a back four, with Stam the dominant centre-back and Silvestre his probable partner, ahead of Berg. Gary Neville is the regular right-back, with his brother Phil and Irwin vying for the left-back berth. Keane is the key man in central midfield, with Scholes his partner in a more attacking role. Butt is the most likely deputy in this area. Giggs offers pace on the left flank, while Beckham gives Yorke and Cole great service from the right. Sheringham is a creative attacking option; Solskjaer, a reliable finisher.

QUESTIONS TO THE COACH

Alex Ferguson

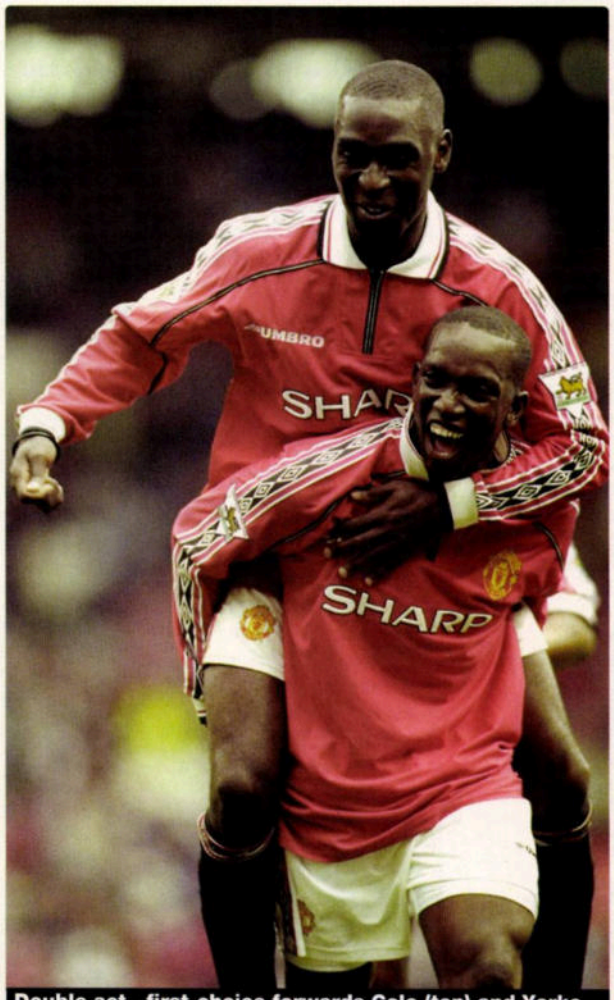
● What are you expecting from the tournament in Brazil?
It's very much a trip into the unknown for us. We were not given details until recently, but once the Christmas programme is out of the way we'll be looking forward to it. There was a lot of talk about whether or not we should get involved, but when Manchester United qualify for a tournament we need to be there.

● Are you concerned about the long trip to South America?
We can handle that. We enjoyed the trip to Tokyo for the Toyota match and it was great to come home with another trophy. Coming up against a Brazilian side was useful, too, because it gave us some idea what to expect from the Brazil trip. We want to win every tournament we go in for, and this one is no different.

● Can Roy Keane concentrate on his football now that his new contract has been sorted out?
I've always had a good relationship with my captains, and they have all been a big part of the club. Roy knows what I think about him. He has a lot of qualities I can associate with – great determination, a will to win and a hunger for success that shows no sign of fading. The players are all very pleased that he has signed a new contract.

Short odds, long haul

Brazil may be a journey too far for the European champions, writes Peter Neish


Double act...first-choice forwards Cole (top) and Yorke

UNITED go to Brazil as European champions and, after their 1-0 defeat of Palmeiras in Tokyo in November, holders of the World Club Cup. But while they will start the World Club Championship as one of the most likely winners, their prospects of success are bound to be hampered by the toll such a long trip will take on the players. This is especially true given that it comes right in the middle of a season in which they will certainly play 57 games, and potentially 63.

United have also had to contend with a good deal of criticism at home about their participation in the tournament. This has centred on the club's decision to drop out of the FA Cup to accommodate the trip to Brazil.

There was also a feeling among sceptics that United had not tried too hard to turn down the trip to Brazil because of the potential benefits their visit would bring in terms of increased merchandising sales.

United said they regretted having to miss out on the FA Cup but insisted that it simply could not be fitted into their crammed fixture schedule. There was also evidence that the club had come under pressure to go to Brazil from the then Sports Minister Tony Banks, who believed failure to take part in the tournament would damage England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

On the playing front, United's form in the Premiership and in Europe has hardly been spectacular, yet they are among the front-runners in the domestic title race and sauntered through the first group stage of the Champions League.

The club's ability to score never looks in doubt, with Dwight Yorke, Andy Cole and in recent weeks Ole Gunnar Solskjaer feeding off the ample supply from David Beckham. In defence, the return to fitness of Gary Neville and the versatility of autumn signing Mickael Silvestre have finally given manager Alex Ferguson some options, while in goal, Mark Bosnich has begun to show some commanding form.

THE VIEW FROM ENGLAND

Gavin Hamilton, Editor, World Soccer

"There's an enormous amount of cynicism about United's participation in Brazil, largely because of the pressure that has been seen to have been exerted on United by the Football Association. That stems from the lack of influence that the FA exerts within FIFA these days; they are desperate not to cause any offence – real or imagined – to FIFA in the run-up to the decision on the 2006 World Cup. United, meanwhile, won't go for broke in Brazil. The squad will be rotated and the club will see the competition as another merchandising opportunity. But they still start as one of the favourites."

Necaxa Group B

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS
Alejandro ALVAREZ
Alberto GUADARRAMA
Hugo PINEDA

DEFENDERS
Miguel ACOSTA
Octavio BECERRIL
Carlos Javier ESPINOLA (Par)
Jaime HERNANDEZ
Jose Maria HIGAREDA
Jose Luis MONTES DE OCA
Edgar SOLANO

MIDFIELDERS
Hector ADOMAITIS (Arg; pending)
Alex AGUINAGA (Ecu)
Sergio ALMAGUER
Ignacio AMBRIZ
Salvador CABRERA
Luis PEREZ
Samuel TERRES
Hernan VIGNA (Arg)
German VILLA

FORWARDS
Agustin DELGADO (Ecu)
Carlos HERMOSILLO
Jose MILLAN
David OLIVA
Sergio VAZQUEZ (Uru)

TACTICS

Sergio Almaguer

Arias plays a back four with Becerril and Espinola at centre-back, Montes de Oca on the left and Higareda on the right. Veteran Pineda is a reliable keeper. The holding midfield roles fall to two from Villa, Perez, Cabrera and Ambriz, while Almaguer is very effective in the air and backs up Aguinaga's creativity. Young midfielder Vigna has made his mark recently. Oliva provides attacking brio, although he is not a prolific scorer, so if Delgado and Vazquez are missing, the responsibility for getting goals will fall on 35-year-old Hermosillo. Adomaitis, if signed, would add speed and mobility to attacks.

QUESTIONS TO THE COACH

Raul Arias

● What do you think of the idea of a World Club Championship?
It's excellent. It will give us a chance to show the level of play in the Mexican League – in my opinion the clubs play much better than the national team. The only objection is the date chosen: most of the players will be off form because of the December festivities and also will have to welcome the New Year away from home.

● Who are your key players?
To me, all are important. Players like Ambriz, Almaguer, Oliva, Cabrera and naturally Aguinaga have helped to integrate the team. They are the veteran 'soldiers' who are willing to help the younger players to mature.

● Who are your favourites to win in Brazil?
My first answer would be Necaxa, since we always try to win tournaments in which we participate. However, we are newcomers to this type of competition and also have problems due to the absence of some key players. I cannot minimise the presence of Manchester United, a team I respect, but they can be beaten, as can South Melbourne and Vasco da Gama.

● How important is success in the World Club Championship?
It is difficult to assess since it is the first time it has been played. But I think it is important to win the first edition of any tournament. The winning club will always be remembered as such.

Unpopular but consistent

The Mexican contenders have shown their pedigree, writes Carlos Ramirez

NECAXA, one of the most consistent Mexican clubs of recent years, earned their place in Brazil by beating Costa Rican side Alajuelense 2-1 in the 1999 CONCACAF Champions Cup Final.

Since Raul Arias took over as coach of the Mexico City-based side in 1997, they have qualified for the play-off stages of four domestic championships (the Mexican League is divided into Winter and Summer campaigns), finishing second once and winning the 1998 Winter title. Yet even before Arias stepped up from assistant to succeed Manuel Lapuente, now national team coach, Necaxa had proved themselves to be a formidable prospect, winning back-to-back League titles in 1995 and 1996.

The club was established in 1920 with the team initially comprising amateurs, employees of the Mexican Light & Power Company. The following decade they won four League titles and were Mexico's most popular team.

Necaxa left the League after it became professional in 1943, but on their return, in 1950, regained their following. However, the 1971 sale of the club's franchise to representatives of Mexico City's Spanish community, and the consequent name change to Atletico Espanol, saw most fans drift away, never to return.

In 1983 the franchise was sold again, to the Televisa TV company. The club was renamed Necaxa but the commercial objectives of the new owners led to the transfer of the team's best players to Televisa's favoured side, America.

Despite this, Necaxa have continued to do well, but the actions of the owners have made the club so unpopular that home gates have averaged just 2,200 over the past seven years.

On the playing front, the star man is Alex Aguinaga. The Ecuadorian international joined Necaxa as a 21-year-old in 1989 and has been the best foreign player in Mexico for the past three years. He is an intelligent playmaker, combining superb technique with tactical ability.

However, the club may well be without two other key men, both goal-getters, in Brazil – Aguinaga's compatriot Agustin Delgado (negotiating a transfer) and Sergio Vazquez of Uruguay (injured in a recent game).

The return of Carlos Hermosillo from a loan spell at LA Galaxy and the prospective signing of attacking midfielder Hector Adomaitis from Colo Colo could be the solution to potential problems up front.

Number one...Alex Aguinaga (centre) and Co carry off the CONCACAF Champions Cup

THE VIEW FROM MEXICO

Flavio Zavala Millet, of the daily sports newspaper Ovaciones

"The pivot and strategic playmaker Aguinaga can decide any game. Necaxa play a systematic defensive game combined with surprising counter-attacks; the players are well accustomed to this system and disciplined in using it. It will be interesting to compare Necaxa's style with the strong European game and the '*jogo bonito*' of the Brazilians. This will be a real measure of the standard of Mexican soccer today."

South Melbourne Group B

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS	George GOUTZOULIS
Chris JONES	Robert LIPAROTI
Milan UDVARACZ (Hun)	Goran LOZANOVSKI
DEFENDERS	Mustafa MUSTAFA
Con BLATSIS	Steve PANAPOULOS
Fausto DE AMICIS	Tas PSONIS
Steve IOSIFIDIS	Paul TRIMBOLI
Nick ORLIC	**FORWARDS**
John TAMBOURAS	John ANASTASIADIS
MIDFIELDERS	Vaughan COVENY (NZ)
Richie ALAGICH	Michael CURCIJA
David CLARKSON	Anthony MAGNACCA
Adrian CUZZUPE	Jim TSEKINIS

TACTICS

Michael Curcija

South Melbourne play a 3-5-2 formation, with a sweeper, two stoppers in the centre of the defence, two wing-backs, and two workers in midfield behind the playmaker, Trimboli. Curcija will be partnered up front by either Coveny or Anastasiadis.

QUESTIONS TO THE COACH

Ange Postecoglu

● What do you think of the idea of a World Club Championship?
It's a great idea, the biggest thing that's ever happened to club football here. We don't have a Champions League or a South American Cup. Our horizons have pretty much been limited to winning our League, and the champions don't really go on to anywhere, so it's opened up a whole new avenue for all the clubs here and for the whole region. It gives us an opportunity to show people that our football is very competitive. Hopefully we can do ourselves justice and if it becomes an annual thing it will also help to give us exposure locally.

● Is it true that you think South Melbourne have not received the credit you deserve?
Yeah, that's fair. We're battling against the Aussie Rules game here, and against other local clubs who have a higher profile. But we've been the best side in Australia for the past two seasons, and maybe now we're on the world stage, people will start taking us seriously.

● Who are your key players?
Most of our players have played at international level at some stage and we've got two or three, maybe more, who are capable of playing overseas. This tournament gives them an opportunity to show the world what they can do. We've got a good mixture of local boys and experienced internationals like Paul Trimboli.

● Who do you see as the favourites?
Obviously Manchester United, the best club football team in the world right now. But traditionally in tournaments like the World Cup, the conditions don't suit the European teams. We may have an easier time adjusting to the heat than they will.

'Give us some credit'

The Lakesiders can't wait to appear on the world stage, says Gavin Hamilton

One to watch...defender Con Blatsis (right) is one of South Melbourne's rising stars

SOUTH MELBOURNE qualified for the inaugural FIFA World Club Championship as champions of Oceania. They won the OFC Club Championship in Fiji in September after beating home side Nadi in the Final.

They have been the most impressive team in the Australian League in recent seasons, winning the title for the past two years.

Since winning in Fiji, however, the Lakesiders' form at home has been indifferent, leading to suggestions by many in Australia that South Melbourne will embarrass themselves in Brazil.

But long-serving coach Ange Postecoglu insists that his part-timers will put up a fight in their Group B matches.

The club act as an icon for the Greek community in Melbourne (they were known as South Melbourne Hellas in the days when Australian clubs carried ethnic tags) and home attendances average between 8,000 and 9,000. This makes them a well-supported team, but not as popular as some of the newer clubs such as Perth Glory.

The trip to Brazil will be hugely worthwhile financially. The club will net almost £2million, roughly double their annual budget.

Postecoglu has some useful players to call upon. Captain Paul Trimboli, now 30, first played for Australia in 1989 and is twice a former Australian player of the year.

Right-sided midfielder Goran Lozanovski has had trials in Germany with Arminia Bielefeld, but is staying in Australia for the foreseeable future. Young centre-back Con Blatsis recently returned from Athens after a lengthy trial with Olympiakos.

The tournament offers the club a chance to be seen, if not to shine, on a world stage.

THE VIEW FROM AUSTRALIA

Mike Cockerill, Sydney Morning Herald

"South Melbourne are not going to embarrass themselves in Brazil as some people here are suggesting. Australian football is not as poor as people in Europe might think. They won't get flogged, but they won't win any matches either. They're well organised with some reasonable players, although nobody to set the world alight. Paul Trimboli is the main man – when he plays well, South Melbourne play well. Goran Lozanovski is their most explosive player on his day."

Vasco da Gama Group B

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS	AMARAL
CARLOS GERMANO	FABIANO ELLER
HELTON	FABRICIO CARVALHO
MARCIO CAZORLA	JUNINHO
DEFENDERS	NASA
FELIPE	PAULO MIRANDA
GILBERTO	PEDRINHO
HENRIQUE	RAMON
MARICA	**FORWARDS**
MAURO GALVAO	CRISTIANO
ODVAN	DONIZETE
PAULO CESAR	EDMUNDO
MIDFIELDERS	ROMARIO
ALEX OLIVEIRA	VIOLA

TACTICS

Lopes is likely to use a cautious 4-4-2. In front of excellent keeper Carlos Germano, Mauro Galvao commands the deep defensive line alongside the cruder Odvan. Nasa and Amaral will probably be the two defensive midfielders, although Fabiano Eller heads a long list of options. The classy Juninho runs the right side of midfield, with the busy Ramon on the left. Felipe attacks either from left-back or midfield. Up front, Edmundo has enjoyed a free role, with his partner expected to work back. With the addition of Romario, this needs a rethink.

QUESTIONS TO THE COACH

Antonio Lopes

● What do you think of the idea of a World Club Championship?
I think it's exceptional; not just for the title, which will clearly be highly prized, but also for the fact that the tournament will help the progress of world football. Africa and Asia have been brought into the process, which is very important. It's a chance for teams from these continents to become known all over the world, and provides opportunities for an exchange of knowledge, methods and ideas.

● Who are your key players?
Edmundo, Romario, Juninho, Mauro Galvao and Carlos Germano.

● Who are your favourites to win the tournament?
Real Madrid, Manchester United, Corinthians and ourselves.

● How important is success in the World Club Championship?
It's our number one priority. We've been preparing for this all season. That's not to say that we neglected the Brazilian championship, but our thoughts have always been focused on becoming the first club to win this new title.

● What effect do you think the heat will have on the football?
I don't think it will have much influence on us or Corinthians. The teams from Africa and Asia should be OK as well. But I think the Europeans will feel the heat, especially as they're coming straight out of winter.

Home advantage

The Rio club have brilliance and resilience in plenty, says Tim Vickery

VASCO's participation in the tournament owes as much to economics as to the team's admirable consistency. The fear of making a loss led the organisers to find a way to include a club from co-hosting city Rio de Janeiro, alongside Corinthians of Sao Paulo, thereby boosting gate receipts. So in came Vasco, as 1998 Libertadores Cup winners, leaving current holders Palmeiras to wait their turn.

Now they are in, Vasco are keen to win. They are boosted by the return of Romario, who left in 1988 to seek his fortune in Europe. Thirteen years ago Romario was given his Vasco debut by Antonio Lopes, who by coincidence is again coach of the club.

Teamed up...Edmundo now has Romario as a strike partner

This time round Lopes has performed the considerable feat of staying in charge for over three years, and has moulded a team who, combining deep defence with moments of attacking brilliance, became champions of Brazil and South America.

Lately, though, the formula has shown signs of flagging. Lopes's masterstroke when he took the helm again was to play striker Edmundo further forward, emphasising his acceleration rather than his tendency to do everything himself. The results were spectacular. Then Edmundo spent a stormy 18 months with Fiorentina, and, now back with Vasco, seems to have lost some pace, perhaps weighed down by the jail sentence hanging over him for his part in a car crash.

Now Lopes faces the challenge of getting Romario and Edmundo to fire together. In the past, whether for club or country, their partnership has been a disaster, with neither prepared to create space for the other. "We're more mature now," says Romario.

Vasco's captain, Mauro Galvao, is perhaps too mature. A wonderful reader of the game, he has been the rock of the team's defensive stability. But at 38, age and Brazil's fixture pile-up are starting to take their toll. Galvao is suddenly looking vulnerable, and Geder, his very promising deputy, is injured.

For all that, Vasco are serious candidates. When their collective game fails they can call on individual brilliance from the likes of Juninho and Felipe. When their stars disappoint, their sheer resilience can pull them through.

"No one beats Vasco in Rio," sing the crowd. It could be a popular song on January 14.

THE VIEW FROM BRAZIL

Carlos Alberto Viera, international editor, Jornal dos Sports

"Vasco are desperate to win this title. That's why they brought Edmundo back from Italy and signed Romario. These two plus Juninho are the team's strong point. Their presence, plus the intense heat of the Rio summer, make Vasco strong candidates. The squad does have its weak points, though. Right-back is a problem, and now Mauro Galvao is struggling for fitness, Vasco may have to make some late signings."

Brazil are still the best

The New Zealand tournament had familiar winners but there were signs of a new order emerging, writes Paul Gardner

SOCCER times, they are a-changing. Possibly, possibly. Maybe we saw something significant at the Under-17 World Championship in New Zealand, something that reveals a bit of the future. All three European teams, Germany, Poland and Spain, were knocked out in the first round. Two of the three African countries were eliminated at the same stage. And – unheard of at any level – one of the semi-finals involved two of soccer's third-world nations, the USA and Australia.

There was no surprise, though, about the winners. Brazil – who else? They were the first repeat winners in the tournament's history, and added yet more silver to those bulging trophy cabinets. But there were some signs of a new order forming.

The fact that this tournament was held in New Zealand – which would not rank among anyone's first 100 soccer powers – tells another part of the story. FIFA vice-president Jack Warner, chairman of the youth competitions committee, saw New Zealand take a 13-0 mauling from Spain in the tournament two years ago, and went straight to Oceania president Charles Dempsey, begging him to withdraw the NZ bid to host the 1999 edition. "You'll be embarrassed," he warned. They were not. The competition's smooth progress had Warner apologising for his earlier doubts and now suggesting that New Zealand should apply – "very soon" – to host an Under-20 World Cup.

The tournament director, Bill MacGowan, acknowledged a debt to, of all people, the All Blacks, for getting knocked out of rugby's World Cup in the semi-final. "If they had won it, we'd have had a week or more of celebrations," he said. "Their defeat opened up a chance for this event, and the New Zealand public got behind it much more than I would have dreamed of."

The organisers could not be held responsible for the weather or that the standard of play was lower than expected. They had put on a splendidly run tournament, managing to generate an average attendance of nearly 7,500 per game – a praiseworthy figure for youth soccer, which is never an easy sell.

Shoot-outs mar closing stages

SADLY, the shoot-out cast a long and depressing shadow over the event. To have both semi-finals and the Final decided by penalties was clearly unsatisfactory.

These particular shoot-outs underlined the distortion introduced by the penalty procedure, because several times a team's key player failed: US captain Kenny Cutler, Dong-Bortey and Obodai ("our two best") of Ghana against Brazil, and Australians Wayne Srhoj – "he never misses," said his coach – and captain Mark Byrnes, whose failure in the Final was his first ever.

Up and down...Rubinho and Fyfe

As is often the case in tournaments, the best games were at the quarter-final stage, before tiredness and caution set in.

The rains came just when they were least needed. The tournament's opening match, New Zealand versus the USA in Auckland, was played in monsoon conditions that cut short the opening ceremonies, kept the crowd down and ruled out any chance of a good game.

New Zealand's coach, Englishman Kevin Fallon, had told me: "I'll get the most out of the boys. Cruyff wouldn't do better. You won't like it, you'll say it's too British." But it was not at all bad. The Kiwis fought hard all the way and lost only 2-1 despite having David Mulligan sent off in the 50th minute.

At least there was a financial triumph of sorts here. Fallon estimated that New Zealand had spent £135,000 preparing the team; the US figure was £2million.

The Americans had been living and training – and going to high school – together in Florida since January. They came into the tournament on a 20-game unbeaten run, and in the end they topped Group A by beating Uruguay and drawing with Poland.

In Landon Donovan (already with Bayer Leverkusen) and DaMarcus Beasley (Los Angeles Galaxy) they had two of the tournament's most exciting players. But Fallon's boys provided the shock, deservedly beating Poland 2-1, to record New Zealand's first-ever World Cup win.

In Group B, Mexico qualified and put Spain out of the tournament by beating them 1-0, though Ghana topped the group after a 1-1 draw with Spain, a 4-0 win over Mexico, and a 7-1 slaughter of Thailand.

In the group's opening game, Spain equalised in the 97th minute as the referee added on extra time to penalise Ghana's play-acting. The Africans' coach, Jones Attuquayefio, was not pleased. "My boys were tired – we took three days to get here," he said. "No coach will try to delay the game by asking his boys to act."

Brazil were struggling in Group C. They were lucky to beat Australia 2-1, then laboured to 0-0 ties with Mali and Germany, eventually reaching the quarter-finals by scoring only twice – a gift and a deflection.

At no time had this Brazil played flowing Brazilian football, and they did not top the group. That honour went to the surging Australians, who came back from a goal down to beat Germany 2-1 and then defeated Mali 1-0.

Group D produced some excellent, attractive soccer from Paraguay, but taking first place proved to be fatal for them – they had to play Brazil in the quarter-finals and lost 4-1. Leonardo, starting for the first time, provided an answer to the goal drought with a spectacular hat-trick.

In the other quarter-finals, Ghana, playing with 10 men from the 16th minute, squeaked through after a wonderful game against Uruguay, which was decided by Ishmael Addo's golden goal.

USA-Mexico was quite a show, won 3-2 by the Americans after they had survived a penalty when one goal down; while Australia confirmed their growing reputation as a defensive force with a 1-0 win over Qatar.

Both semi-finals provided plenty of thrills and good football. In Christchurch, Australia were one up in three minutes, through Goulding, and two up after 35 (McDonald), but the USA had come from behind against New Zealand, Poland and Mexico, and they did it again this time. Donovan scored their first, and Onyewu equalised when diverting a corner into the net with a shoulder. Eventually the match went to penalties, and the tournament began to lose its credibility. Australia won the shoot-out 7-6 when Cutler shot over the bar and pounded the turf in his anguish, but his miss had not made the Americans into a worse team than their opponents; it simply solved the problem of which of them would play in the Final.

In Auckland, Brazil and Ghana played a rather similar but more effervescent game, which was not easy because drenching rain fell throughout. Brazil's 2-0 lead came via a deflected shot from

Leonardo and an own goal by Tetteh. Ghana levelled in the second half through Nathaniel Lamptey (a superb back-header) and Addo.

There was more caution in extra time, followed by another shoot-out…and again the tournament's credibility dropped. Ghana's first three shots went wide, and Brazil won 4-2.

Despite the insistence of both coaches that the third-place game really, really did matter, it never came to life, Ghana running out 2-0 winners.

There was never the slightest doubt that Australia would put the emphasis on defence in the Final, hoping to frustrate the Brazilians and grab a counter-attack goal.

They almost made the plan work, but succeeded only in producing the dullest Final yet, the first scoreless decider in the tournament's history, and only the 22nd 0-0 result in its 256-game history. And so it was shoot-out time again.

Aussie captain Mark Byrnes put the first kick wide, but Jess Kedwell-Vanstrattan saved brilliantly from Marquinhos. Then everyone scored until the ninth round, when substitute Iain Fyfe's shot was tipped on to a post by Rubinho. Wellington rapped his kick into the net, and Brazil were champions by the least satisfactory method possible.

Their coach, Carlos Cesar Ramos, said: "My boys deserve this so much. We've worked so hard for two years. But the overtime and the shoot-out were nightmares for me."

Les Scheinflug, in his last match after 25 years as Australia's youth coach, saw things differently, and said: "My kids deserved to win – I'll paint their silver medals gold."

Held aloft...the Brazil squad and officials take the trophy

RESULTS

GROUP A

Nov 10:	New Zealand 1 USA 2
Nov 11:	Uruguay 1 Poland 1
Nov 13:	New Zealand 0 Uruguay 5
Nov 13:	USA 1 Poland 1
Nov 16:	Poland 1 New Zealand 2
Nov 16:	USA 1 Uruguay 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	6	2	4
New Zealand	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Poland	3	0	2	1	3	4	2

GROUP B

Nov 11:	Ghana 1 Spain 1
Nov 11:	Mexico 4 Thailand 0
Nov 13:	Spain 6 Thailand 0
Nov 13:	Ghana 4 Mexico 0
Nov 16:	Thailand 1 Ghana 7
Nov 16:	Spain 0 Mexico 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	3	2	1	0	12	2	7
Mexico	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Spain	3	1	1	1	7	2	4
Thailand	3	0	0	3	1	17	0

GROUP C

Nov 12:	Brazil 2 Australia 1
Nov 12:	Mali 0 Germany 0
Nov 14:	Australia 2 Germany 1
Nov 14:	Brazil 0 Mali 0
Nov 17:	Germany 0 Brazil 0
Nov 17:	Australia 1 Mali 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Brazil	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Germany	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Mali	3	0	2	1	0	1	2

GROUP D

Nov 12:	Jamaica 0 Burkina Faso 1
Nov 12:	Paraguay 2 Qatar 0
Nov 14:	Burkina Faso 1 Qatar 2
Nov 14:	Jamaica 0 Paraguay 5
Nov 17:	Qatar 4 Jamaica 0
Nov 17:	Burkina Faso 2 Paraguay 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Qatar	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Burkina Faso	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Jamaica	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

QUARTER-FINALS

Nov 20: USA 3 Mexico 2
Nov 20: Ghana 3 Uruguay 2 (aet)
Nov 21: Australia 1 Qatar 0
Nov 21: Paraguay 1 Brazil 4

SEMI-FINALS

Nov 24: USA 2 Australia 2 (aet)
Australia 7-6 on pens
Nov 24: Ghana 2 Brazil 2 (aet)
Brazil 4-2 on pens

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Nov 27: USA 0 Ghana 2

FINAL

Nov 27 - Auckland
Australia 0
Brazil 0
Att: 22,859. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Aet. Brazil 8-7 on pens
Australia: Kedwell-Vanstrattan - Cansdell-Sherriff (Fyfe 90), Goulding, Madaschi, Byrnes, North, Brain, Pantelis (Di Iorio 55), McDonald (Kennedy 99), Srhoj, MacAllister.
Brazil: Rubinho - Bruno Leite, Marquinhos, Ricardo, Eduardo, Anderson, Leo, Walker, Caca (Wellington 75), Leonardo, Adriano (Souza 61).

SQUADS

UNDER-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

AUSTRALIA

GOALKEEPERS
1 KEDWELL-VANSTRATTAN, Jess (Adelaide City)
18 MILOSEVIC, Matthew (Adelaide City)

DEFENDERS
2 LOCKHART, Shane (NSW Academy)
3 CANSDELL-SHERRIFF, Shane (Leeds Utd, Eng)
4 GOULDING, Aaron (Para Hills)
5 MADASCHI, Adrian (Atalanta, Ita)
6 BYRNES, Mark (Parramatta Power)
13 FYFE, Iain (South Aus. Institute of Sport)

MIDFIELDERS
7 NORTH, Jade (Aus. Institute of Sport)
8 BRAIN, Louis (Adelaide Force)
10 PANTELIS, Lucas (Aus. Institute of Sport)
14 GROVES, Bradley (Leeds Utd, Eng)
15 DOUMANIS, Anthony (NSW Academy)
16 SRHOJ, Wayne (Aus. Institute of Sport)
17 MacALLISTER, Dylan (Sydney Olympic)

FORWARDS
9 DI IORIO, Joseph (Werder Bremen, Ger)
11 McDONALD, Scott (Vic. Institute of Sport)
12 KENNEDY, Joshua (Aus. Institute of Sport)

BRAZIL

GOALKEEPERS
1 RUBINHO (Corinthians)
12 DIEGO (Palmeiras)

DEFENDERS
2 BRUNO LEITE (Vasco da Gama)
3 MARQUINHOS (Corinthians)
4 RICARDO (Vasco da Gama)
13 CARLOS HENRIQUE (Vitoria)
14 MATHEUS (Gremio)

MIDFIELDERS
5 EDUARDO (Gremio)
6 ANDERSON (Flamengo)
7 LEO (Madureira)
8 WALKER (Ajax, Hol)
10 CACA (Sao Paulo)
15 WELLINGTON (Corinthians)
17 ANDREZINHO (Flamengo)

FORWARDS
9 SOUZA (Madureira)
11 LEANDRO (Sao Paulo)
16 LEONARDO (Vasco da Gama)
18 ADRIANO (Flamengo)

BURKINA FASO

GOALKEEPERS
1 DIAKITE, Daouda (Planete Champion)
18 KABORE, Jean Jacques (RCK)

DEFENDERS
2 TRAORE, Lamine (Planete Champion)
3 YAMEOGO, Jose Hermann (Racing Club Bobo)
4 SANOU, Aboubacar (Racing Club Bobo)
5 TASSAMBEDO, Soumaila (Planete Champion)
6 PAFADNAM, Charles (Planete Champion)
12 SANOU, Siaka (Planete Champion)

MIDFIELDERS
13 KABORE, Ibrahim (Planete Champion)
14 OUEDRAOGO, Issaka (Ouaga)
15 ZONGO, Ousseni (Planete Champion)
17 ROUAMBA, Gaston (Planete Champion)

FORWARDS
7 ZOUNDI, Patrick (Planete Champion)
8 MAIGA, Bureima (Planete Champion)
9 BARRO, Tanguy (Racing Club Bobo)
10 KABORE, Moussa (Santos)
11 COMPAORE, Djibril (ASFA Yennega)
16 GAMBO, Alhassan (Racing Club Bobo)

GERMANY

GOALKEEPERS
1 SCHLOSSER, Jan (Bayern Munich)
12 EILHOFF, Dennis (Arminia Bielefeld)

DEFENDERS
2 REUTER, Torsten (Kaiserslautern)
4 THORWART, Florian (Borussia Dortmund)
5 WILKING, Hannes (Werder Bremen)
13 FINK, Michael (Stuttgart)
14 BECKERT, Stefan (Carl Zeiss Jena)

MIDFIELDERS
3 FINKE, Lars (Hertha Berlin)
6 FEULNER, Markus (Bayern Munich)
7 KRINGE, Florian (Borussia Dortmund)
8 HITZLSPERGER, Thomas (Bayern Munich)
10 HINKEL, Andreas (Stuttgart)
15 GORLITZ, Andreas (1860 Munich)
16 WORLE, Thomas (Augsburg)

FORWARDS
9 HELLER, Florian (Bayern Munich)
11 HAAS, Leonhard (Bayern Munich)
17 NIEMANN, Daniel (Werder Bremen)
18 SCHMID, Jurgen (Bayern Munich)

GHANA

GOALKEEPERS
1 OWUSU BANAHENE, Maxwell (Hasaacas)
16 ABDALLAH, Sumaila (Dawu)

DEFENDERS
2 NKRUMAH, Emmanuel (All Blacks)
3 KAINYA, Lawrence (Neoplan)
4 ESSIEN, Michael (Liberty)
7 ATTIKU, Ibrahim (Cowlane Babies)
8 OSEI, Michael (Dwarfs)
13 OBODAI, Anthony (Liberty)
14 TETTEH, Stephen (Mighty Jets)
18 DONG-BORTEY, Benard (Ghapoha)

MIDFIELDERS
6 FRIMPONG PELE, Kwame (Liberty)
9 RAZAK, Pimpong (Great Olympics)
10 LAMPTEY, Nathaniel (Stay Cool)
12 IBRAHIM, Razak (Mighty Jets)
15 ADDO, Ishmael (Hearts)

FORWARDS
5 DONKOR, Michael (De Gaulle Stars)
11 ABLADE, Seth (-)
17 ODURO, Stephen (RTU)

JAMAICA

GOALKEEPERS
1 WILSON, Keith (Waddadah)
13 WHITTAKER, Allien (Hazard United)

DEFENDERS
2 BATTISTE, Sheldon (Galaxy)
3 THOMAS, Alex (Real Mona)
4 STEWARD, Keveral (Real Mona)
5 STEVENS, Shane (Real Mona)
6 SAILSMAN, Loren (Violet Kickers)
14 BROWN, Kingsley (Reno)

MIDFIELDERS
7 FRASER, Sean (Harbour View)
8 KELLY, Keith (Harbour View)
11 BRYAN, Eshaya (Cooreville)
17 CHAMBERS, Dane (Juventos)
18 WOOLERY, Deshaun (Violet Kickers)

FORWARDS
9 STEWART, Reinaldo (Real Mona)
10 BENNETT, Anthony (Real Mona)
12 GORDON, Craig (Reno)
15 RICHARDS, Dwayne (Cooreville)
16 KING, Kevin (Santos)

MALI

GOALKEEPERS
1 BATHILY, Cheick Oumar (II Createurs)
16 SIMPARA, Youssouf (CSK)

DEFENDERS
2 DOUCOURE, Mintou (CSK)
4 DIAKITE, Ousmane (CSK)
5 SYLLA, Bamba (Djoliba)
6 DIALLO, Dalla Mane (CSK)
18 DIAMOUTENE, Souleymane (Tata National)

MIDFIELDERS
3 DIOP, Sidi (Il Createurs)
7 DIALLO, Amadou (Djoliba)
8 SIDIBE, Djibril (Monaco, Fra)
10 TRAORE, Abdoul (Djoliba)

FORWARDS
9 KONE, Idrissa (Stade Malien)
11 DIALLO, Mamadou (CSK)
12 SIDIBE, Mohamed (CSK)
13 DIABY, Abdoulaye (Djoliba)
14 DIAWARA, Mamadou (CSK)
15 DOUMBIA, Kalilou (COB)
17 KANTE, Koly (Angouleme, Fra)

MEXICO

GOALKEEPERS
1 CABRERA, Adolfo (Guadalajara)
12 SAUCEDO, Cirilo (Leon)

DEFENDERS
2 GRIJALVA, Felix (Atlante)
3 BRACAMONTES, Julio (Guadalajara)
4 AZUARA, Juan Manuel (Tigres)
5 PEREZ, Mario (Necaxa)
6 PARADA, Ernesto (Atlas)
17 ELIAS, Julio Vladimir (Cruz Azul)

MIDFIELDERS
8 LOPEZ, Edgar (Cruz Azul)
10 SANCHEZ, Ricardo (Atlas)
13 GALINDO, Aaron (Cruz Azul)

FORWARDS
7 VALLEJO, Hector (Monterrey)
9 ESTRADA, Juan (Cruz Azul)
11 AGUAYO, Omar (Guadalajara)
14 HERNANDEZ, Gerardo (Pumas UNAM)
15 BACA, Gerardo (Atlante)
16 RAMIREZ, Gustavo (Necaxa)
18 YANEZ, Yered (Toros Neza)

NEW ZEALAND

GOALKEEPERS
1 NATHU, Sacha (Wellington)
18 BRIDLE, Gary (Hawkes Bay)

DEFENDERS
2 KOLK, Julius (Nelson)
3 SINGH, Sanjay (Taranaki)
4 RAYNER, David (Bay of Plenty)
5 LOCHHEAD, Tony (Bay of Plenty)
6 KNOWLES, Cameron (North Harbour)

MIDFIELDERS
7 MULLIGAN, David (Barnsley, Eng)
8 CHRISTIE, Jeremy (Northland)
12 TURNER, Steven (Auckland)
13 TRENT, Daniel (Counties)
14 JONES, Neil (North Harbour)
15 HILL, Ricky (Auckland)
16 BUDGEN, Karl (Waikato)

FORWARDS
9 PRITCHETT, James (Auckland)
10 PEARCE, Allan (Mana)
11 FISHER, Brent (Canterbury)
17 PEREZ, Sebastian (Auckland)

PARAGUAY

GOALKEEPERS
1 CABALLERO, Ever (Olimpia)
12 VERON, Carlos (Olimpia)

DEFENDERS
2 VILLALBA, David (Olimpia)
3 DE VACA, Jose (Cerro Porteno)
4 MELGAREJO, Victor (Cerro Cora)
5 FARINA, Milner (Atletico Colegiales)
13 MIERS, Ever (Cerro Porteno)
14 GUERRERO, Rolando (12 de Octubre)

MIDFIELDERS
6 FRETES, Walter (Cerro Porteno)
8 MORENO, Diego (Olimpia)
10 PERALTA, Victorino (Sportivo Colombia)
11 FIGUEREDO, Diego (Olimpia)

FORWARDS
7 GUZMAN, Tomas (Presidente Hayes)
9 DA SILVA, Alejandro (Cerro Porteno)
15 VERA, Jose (Tacuray)
16 SANTA CRUZ, Diego (Cerro Cora)
17 CABRERA, Victor (Guarani)
18 FERREIRA, Daniel (Olimpia)

POLAND

GOALKEEPERS
1 KUSZCZAK, Tomasz (Slask Wroclaw)
12 KAPSA, Pawel (Ostrowiec)

DEFENDERS
2 ROGALSKI, Marcin (Halex Olsztyn)
3 NAPIERALA, Adrian (Szamotuly)
4 WISIO, Tomasz (Zaglebie Lubin)
5 SZYMANEK, Wojciech (Polinia Warsaw)
7 NAWOTCZYNSKI, Lukasz (Lechia Gdansk)
17 KUZERA, Kamil (Wisla Krakow)

MIDFIELDERS
6 LOBODZINSKI, Wojciech (Halex Olsztyn)
8 ZAWADZKI, Dariusz (Wisla Krakow)
9 MADEJ, Lukasz (Ptak)
13 BROZEK, Piotr (Wisla Krakow)
14 MILA, Sebastian (Lechia Gdansk)
15 SIERANT, Robert (Ptak)

FORWARDS
10 MIERZEJEWSKI, Lukasz (Lechia Gdansk)
11 MATUSIAK, Radoslaw (Ptak)
16 JANICKI, Michal (Pogon Szczecin)
18 BROZEK, Pawel (Wisla Krakow)

QATAR

GOALKEEPERS
1 AL-ANSARI, Salman (Qatar)
18 MASOUD MOHAMED Zareie (Al Arabi)

DEFENDERS
2 AL-ASSEIRI, Abdullah (Al Sadd)
3 AL-KUWARI, Essa (Al Shamal)
4 FAWAZ Aman Salmeen (Al Wakra)
5 MADABBU, Mohd (Al Wakra)
6 MESHAL Mubarak Budawood (Qatar)
12 HUSSAIN Mohamed Hamed (Al Etihad)
14 AL-GHANIM, Ibrahim (Al Arabi)

MIDFIELDERS
7 MOHAMED YASSER Mohaamady (Al Tawoun)
8 MUAMER Ahmad Abdulrab (Qatar)
9 MUSA, Ahmad (Al Wakra)
10 AL-ROMAIHI, Ibrahim (Qatar)
15 NAFEED Mohamed Ibrahim (Rayyan)
17 BILAL A Rahman Abuhamda (Al Sadd)

FORWARDS
11 WALEED M Rasoul (Al Arabi)
13 SEYDNA ALI Bechir (Al Arabi)
16 EISSA GHOLOM Jowkar (Al Sadd)

SPAIN

GOALKEEPERS
1 REINA (Barcelona)
13 RELANO (Betis Sevilla)

DEFENDERS
2 DUQUE (Real Madrid)
3 CORRALES (Real Madrid)
5 MARIO (Amoros)
6 RUBEN (Real Madrid)
12 ALEGRE (Valencia)
18 NAVARRO (Barcelona)

MIDFIELDERS
4 ARTETA (Barcelona)
8 PARRI (Villarreal)
9 ELIAS (Amoros)
10 ERNESTO (Real Madrid)
11 ALBERT (Espanyol)

FORWARDS
7 NANO (Barcelona)
14 JONATHAN (Celta Vigo)
15 AITOR (Atletico Madrid)
16 PERONA (Barcelona)
17 NACHO (Racing Santander)

THAILAND

GOALKEEPERS
1 INTHARAT, Apinyakun (Bangkok Christian)
18 KOSIN, Hathairattanakool (Assumption Sriracha)

DEFENDERS
2 SUREE, Sukha (Assumption Sriracha)
3 SOPON, Pimponkang (Assumption Sriracha)
4 KRAIKIAT, Beadtaku (Suphanburi Sports)
5 JAKAPONG, Jiensathawong (Suphanburi Sports)
6 WASAN, Sungkpurn (Assumption Bangkok)
7 KITTIKUN, Suwannatri (Triem U-Dom School)
8 SONGSAK, Chaisamak (Assumption Sriracha)
12 NATAPORN, Phanrit (Assumption Sriracha)
13 UDORN, Pimpak (Assumption Sriracha)

MIDFIELDERS
14 THEERAYUT, Duangphimai (-)
15 SAKDA, Joemdee (Suankulab School)
16 PHICHITPHONG, Choeichiu (Suphanburi Sports)
17 PRAIWET, Wanna (Assumption Sriracha)

FORWARDS
9 SURIYA, Amatawet (Bangkok Christian)
10 TEERATEP, Winothai (Bangkok Christian)
11 PREECHA, Pinpradub (Suphanburi Sports)

URUGUAY

GOALKEEPERS
1 SILVA, Martin (Defensor Sporting)
12 RODRIGUEZ, Fernando (Defensor Sporting)

DEFENDERS
2 MARTINEZ, Williams (Defensor Sporting)
3 MENESES, Alvaro (Nacional)
4 PAIVA, Rodolfo (Nacional)
6 LAPOLLA, Miguel (Danubio)
13 NOVEGIL, Gonzalo (Danubio)
14 ALONSO, Washington (Cerro)
15 PORTILLO, Ignacio (Wanderers)

MIDFIELDERS
5 JACQUES, Carlos (Penarol)
7 ALVAREZ, Sebastian (Penarol)
8 GARCIA, Javier (Defensor Sporting)
10 OLIVERA, Ruben (Danubio)
16 MUNOZ, Pablo (Defensor Sporting)
18 VERA, Peter (Nacional)

FORWARDS
9 LEGUIZAMON, Mario (Penarol)
11 PERALTA, Horacio (Danubio)
17 LEAL, Sergio (Penarol)

USA

GOALKEEPERS
1 COUNTESS, D J (San Juan)
18 CRONIN, Steve (San Juan)

DEFENDERS
2 KALSO, Kellen (Vardar III)
5 YI, Alex (Potomac)
6 MARTIN, Greg (Dallas Comets)
14 ONYEWU, Oguchi (Potomac)
17 TREMBLY, Seth (Colorado Rapids)

MIDFIELDERS
3 BEASLEY, DaMarcus (Los Angeles Galaxy)
4 AKWARI, Nelson (Texans)
7 CUTLER, Kenny (Richmond Strikers)
8 JACKSON, Bryan (Claremont Stars)
9 GREGORIO, Adolfo (Turlock Tornados)
12 PALOMARES, Raul (Kaiserslautern, Ger)
15 BECKERMAN, Kyle (Commack Utd)

FORWARDS
10 DONOVAN, Landon (Bayer Leverkusen, Ger)
11 CONVEY, Bobby (Coppa)
13 THOMPSON, Abe (Braddock Warhawks)
16 CILA, Jordan (Commack Utd)

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Blatter: The Millennium

It's said you see FIFA as a house. Can you explain that?
Easily. It's a very graphic concept. Here at FIFA we are building a house founded in trust and confidence. We have two floors, democracy and solidarity. The ceiling is the quality of our game and the roof is its universality.

But a house needs a family to fill it, and we have such a family. It's a family of 300 million people kicking a ball around – and that makes us a big, important family. We are an open family. We have to show the world that football can be a wonderful agent of education and entertainment. We can invite all to share – including all those involved in political and economic activities.

Football is a mirror of society. Not everyone always plays fair in the outside world. But we want to show them that we believe in fair play and that we can make it work.

Can you make football work in political as well as sporting terms?
Both. For example, in Israel recently I had discussions with the FA and with the former Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. He raised an idea which interested me particularly because, the previous week, I had been in Palestine, in Jordan, to see what is happening in football there. Peres said that football could help bring people in the region together, particularly young people.

He suggested that we organise a match between the young people of these countries – which was what I had proposed to the Palestinians a week earlier. At first many of the Israelis were reluctant. But then I explained that I thought there should be match contact at first only at youth levels and through the clubs – not national team level; that would be too delicate because of the issue of prestige.

Now a working party has been set up to see how this may be accomplished. So we can say we are trying to do something to benefit the people in that region. Some people have told me it is too risky. But if you never take a chance, you never have a chance to succeed.

Can you work as delicately in another area of political tension – the European Union and its Commission?
We are trying. Recently I went with the president [Lennart Johansson] and general secretary [Gerd Aigner] of UEFA to meet the European Commissioner for Education and Culture, Viviane Reding. I told her where I stood concerning the educational and cultural value of football. She was right on our side with that.

It was not sensational news because there was no fight. But it is progress – I think it was the first time Johansson had formally met a European commissioner. Later I arranged meetings with the Sports Minister of Finland, the country which will hold the presidency of the European Union, and the Sports Minister of Germany, which becomes president next.

So you can see that we are taking up, at sports ministry level, a dialogue for the good of the game we care about. We – myself, Lennart Johansson and Gerd Aigner – go hand in hand. It's not romanticism, it's realism.

What do you want from the European Commission?
We want compensation for small clubs which depend on transfer fees to survive. This is a must for us. We cannot ask the European Union to change its laws but we can ask it to make certain exceptions concerning sport.

One of those is the idea of 'six and five' where foreign players are concerned. It's not a new idea. Before the Bosman case it was common for teams in many European countries to have to include at least six players eligible for the national team. What's happened is a big problem. It has even been discussed in the parliaments of Spain, Italy and Portugal.

We need regional and local identity brought back into football.

That sounds like special treatment for sport, doesn't it?
I don't want special treatment, only that outsiders respect our sporting laws. It's the same where there have been problems between the elected national associations of Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria and their governments.

We have been accused of trying to interfere inside those countries, but that has not been the case. We have said clearly that, within their own country, they can play football and organise it however they like, with whatever rules they like and with whatever president they like, but they cannot expect to go OUTSIDE their country and play in OUR competitions. That is the stand we have taken and in all cases it has been successful.

Can Commissioner Reding deliver?
Time will tell. She is our ambassador to the other commissioners. In due course, she will come back to us with their opinion and then we will decide how to proceed. Then the details will be up to UEFA to work out. It is UEFA's specific problem because it is UEFA's region.

We are also discussing with the EU the contract problem arising from Bosman, because nowadays players sign for three or four years but are then offered to the market after two years. That's why we are working on new regulations for the transfer of players and how agents can be licensed.

These are urgent matters. Before adopting new rules we would like to consult the EU so as not to rush into something which then creates a problem for UEFA. It's not easy.

For instance, even inside FIFA we have different opinions concerning how to deal with agents. We hear a lot of stories about how they operate and what happens, but there is a limit to what FIFA can do. We are not the police, you know.

Your predecessor, Joao Havelange, once said that the first dilemma for any newly independent nation was whether to apply to join FIFA first or the United Nations. Do you have regular contact with the UN?
Indeed – recently I had a visit from Kofi Annan. That was because FIFA will strengthen its relationship with the UN next year. For example, at the African Cup of Nations in Ghana, with the World Health Organisation, we will launch an anti-polio programme for Africa. This is important not only for footballers but for all the people.

There is a lot we can do but we have to start somewhere. We will work with the various agencies of the UN, through UNESCO, UNICEF, for example, on anti-racism and anti-drug campaigns. They have the channels but we have the vehicle which can go in there – football. All the top-name African footballers will support this – Okocha, Desailly, Weah.

Does all this compromise the fight against doping in football?
Not at all. The proof is our intention to expand the doping control system in international football. For example, in the run-up to Euro 2000 we will start out-of-competition controls. Conveniently, the president of the medical committees of UEFA and FIFA is the same man, Belgium's Michel D'Hooghe.

But we need better laboratories. Those we have are not good enough to identify all the products on the banned list. Also, the list is always six months behind the creative abilities of the pharmaceutical industry.

So, while we must use strong controls we must also, simultaneously, work hard to convince people to stop. Fortunately, football is not as vulnerable as some other sports. In football you need a wide range of qualities: you need endurance, explosiveness, speed, sharp reactions. I have never seen a player gain more muscles and thus become a BETTER footballer with the help of anabolic steroids.

Then why does football generate so much interest?
Because the stadium is like a theatre. The match is like a Greek tragedy. You never know what the outcome will be. So the match is attractive because it possesses so much passion.

Of course, it is also open to the normal, everyday temptations of society. That's why we have to be strong, to fight off anything which would bring the game into disrepute. The stadia must be safe and comfortable – so we can take

Interview

It used to be said that sport and politics do not mix. Don't try telling that to FIFA president Sepp Blatter. It's the style for the new century – as he explains exclusively to Keir Radnedge

away the fences. But we also understand that our game is the best drama on television.

TV is our best partner because, thanks to it, we can develop our game through its worldwide competitions. But it works two ways: TV has built up its own audience thanks to football. This puts us in a favourable position, particularly after developments over the past decade.

State-owned TV has had, since 1988-89, competition in the new forms of television, with pay-TV, pay-per-view and digital television. Advertising can now be seen on most state-owned channels. So television has more money to spend and the fight to attract viewers is much more intense. That's how football benefits.

● Isn't there a danger...?

I know what you are going to ask and we are there already. Yes, we know we must be careful that our game is not taken over by the TV companies, their advertisers and sponsors.

We want to be partners. We don't want anything to do with presidents of companies who want to use football as a platform for their personal visions or campaigns for political or commercial reasons.

We want football to be in the hands of football people. We need the money but we need it to trickle down – shaped like a Christmas tree – from top to bottom, to be used for the education of our young people, men and women, boys and girls.

● What does that mean in television terms for the next World Cup? FIFA is making a lot more money, having sold the rights to Leo Kirch. That means pay-TV for the first time, doesn't it?

Yes. But remember that we, FIFA, own the competition rights. So we insist that the opening match, semi-finals, third place play-off and Final will be available to free TV everywhere. Also, matches of a country's national team must be live on free TV in that country.

For 2002, pay-TV will be allowed other coverage of up to 66 per cent in any one country. Pay-TV channels could also, for instance, show the free matches, but delay transmission. This may be useful in countries where the time difference is a problem. Free TV can have highlights of other matches, at the least. So free TV viewers can still see all matches in a World Cup, but not all matches live.

● Will viewers, however and whenever they watch the World Cup, see any improvement in refereeing?

I believe we must have professional referees – and we WILL have professional referees. They will not necessarily come from all the biggest countries, either. It is always possible that a very small country can produce an outstanding referee and we can never close that door.

At least this idea will give us the chance to create a small list of highly-qualified international referees. When they go to the World Cup they will be paid by FIFA and they can be 'loaned out' by FIFA to national associations and regional confederations.

● What is the greatest pain and the greatest joy football has brought you?

I was punished by my parents for playing football too much when I was a boy! But, seriously, what affected me most is that any person should lose their life against a fence in a stadium at a football match.

The last major incident we had was in October 1996 in Guatemala, when 81 people died. But

Master of his house...Sepp Blatter

Guatemala is very far away and it didn't make a lot of noise elsewhere in the world.

Otherwise, since I joined FIFA [February 1975] I have always been very happy with my job. I was first technical director, then general secretary. I am happy because I like this sport.

There is something very educational about football. It teaches you to learn how to win and how to lose. That's why I think we can only benefit by having more footballers inside our organisations.

Franz Beckenbauer is vice-president in the German federation. Mircea Sandu, the president of the Romanian FA, is a former international player, like Raul Borja in Mexico. In Poland, a former international referee [Michal Listkiewicz] is now president of the federation. My own general secretary [Michel Zen-Ruffinen] was an international referee.

● Who has been the greatest player in your time?

That's impossible. I cannot pick just one. How do you differentiate between Ademir, Pele, Beckenbauer, Cruyff, Platini, Charlton? But I must say that of them all, Alfredo Di Stefano was my idol. Attack, defend, shoot, head, make goals, score goals. He was the complete player for me. He could do everything.

● What does the future hold – for example, will North Korea host matches at the 2002 World Cup finals?

Dr Chung, the president of the South Korea FA, wanted very much to see North Korea as a partner at 2002. He made a personal visit there recently. FIFA cannot take the initiative in such a matter but we would be pleased if football could help provide a solution to a serious situation in their region.

If something can be done, even at this late stage, FIFA would have no objection as long as the political situation would permit it. Then we would have a World Cup in three countries, not two.

● What has been the greatest of FIFA's achievements over the 25 years you have been on board?

That is easy – to develop football as something universal and not only for Europe and South America. When I joined FIFA there were only 16 teams in the World Cup. There were no other world championships. There was no development programme. Just a man named Dettmar Cramer – who is still teaching football somewhere out there.

The game has become more attractive as a spectacle. There is more speed because we have banned back passes to the goalkeeper and because of the multiple ball system [in which a ball kicked out of play is immediately replaced by another, instead of time being wasted recovering the original], which is used now in most major countries.

● What will the next 100 years bring?

I cannot look that far ahead. I will go as far as 25 years, however, and I will forecast no radical changes in that time – just as long as the people in charge maintain the same game from top to bottom...applying the same 17 laws to girls, boys, amateurs, veterans and professionals.

● And the World Cup every two years?

That may be possible one day but we cannot consider it until we have the unified international calendar so we can resolve problems between the interests of clubs and the interests of national associations. We must do that. Remember, as far as all of us at FIFA are concerned, the national team is still the No 1.

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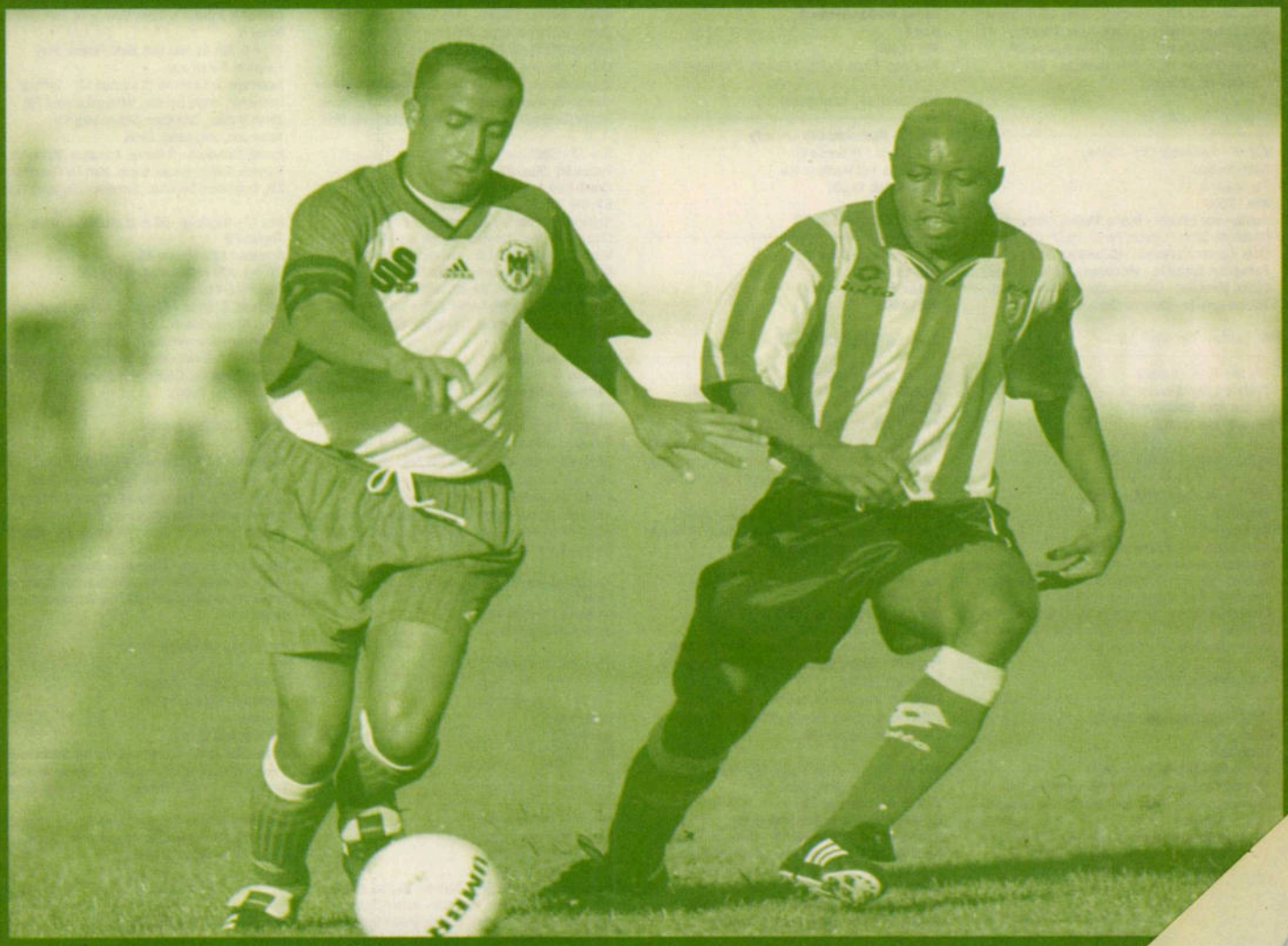

YOUR COMPLETE GUID

THE MONTH'S STATS &

INTERNATIONALS

Tuesday, October 12

Oct 12 - Montevideo - friendly
Uruguay 0
Ecuador 0
Att: 12,000

Wednesday, October 13

Oct 13 - Cordoba - friendly
Argentina 2 (Batistuta 7, Ortega 70)
Colombia 1 (I Cordoba pen 47)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000
Argentina: Bonano - Sensini, Ayala, Samuel, Zanetti - Husain, Simeone, Veron, Guglielminpietro (Barros Schelotto 66; Vivas 90) - Ortega, Batistuta.
Colombia: O Cordoba - G Gonzalez, Bermudez, I Cordoba, Cortes - Rincon, Serna (Portocarrero 77), Grisales, Betancourt (Morantes 60) - Zambrano (Trellez 67), Angel.

Oct 13 - Chicago - friendly
Mexico 0
Paraguay 1 (Delio Toledo 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Weiland (USA)
Mexico: Perez - Altamirano (Chavez 46), Beltran, Suarez, Oteo - Ramirez (Torrado 46), Villa, Arellano (Mendoza 51), Mora (Morales 80) - Hernandez (Soto 46), Palencia.
Paraguay: Chilavert - Caniza, Ayala, Caceres, Toledo (Amarilla 84) - Gavilan (Aviniagalde 39), Cuevas (Roman 60), Enciso, Quintana - Soto (Caceres 46), Arevalo.

Friday, October 15

Oct 15 - Guatemala City - friendly
Guatemala 0
Paraguay 0
Att: 15,000
Guatemala: Estrada - Ruano, Molina, Gonzalez (Miranda), Giron - Lemus, Perez, Trujillo (Garcia) - Plata (Calderon), Acevedo (Cifuentes), Rivera.
Paraguay: Bobadilla - Maldonado, Ayala, Caceres, Enciso (Amarilla) - Quintana, Cuevas (Avinagalde), Toledo, Arevalo - Caceres (Soto), Cardoso.

Saturday, October 16

Oct 16 - Tunis - friendly
Tunisia 1 (Ben Slimane 5)
United Arab Emirates 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000

Wednesday, October 20

Oct 20 - San Diego, USA - friendly
Mexico 0
Colombia 0
Att: 24,500. **Ref:** Valenzuela (USA)
Mexico: Campos - Hierro, Beltran, Chavez (Carmona 9), Oteo - Ramirez, Torrado (Olalde 61), Del Olmo, Fernandez Soto - Hernandez, Abundis.
Colombia: Calero - Cortez, Posada, C Asprilla, Quintana - Viveros, Lozano, Valentierra (Grisales 75), Bolano (Candelo 74) - Congo, Castillo.

Wednesday, October 27

Oct 27 - Houston, USA - friendly
Mexico 0
Ecuador 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Ali Sagali (USA)
Mexico: Campos - Beltran, Oteo, Carmona, Hierro - Torrado, De Olmos, Ramon Ramirez, Soto - Abundis, Luis Hernandez.
Ecuador: Morales (Carabali 20) - Montano (Delgado 64), Hurtado, Ayovi, Cagua - Zamora, Tenorio, Sanchez, Chala - Hurtado, Cubero.

Saturday, October 30

Oct 30 - Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi tnmt
United Arab Emirates 3 (Mohamed Ali pen 37, pen 47, Hussein Said 54)
'urkmenistan 1 (Mouhadov 66)
': 1-0. **Att:** 12,000

'0 - Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi tnmt
(Ali Kadhim 30)
1 (Mahmoud Haydar og 31)
Att: 12,000

idjan - friendly
0
amba 89)
'000

Sunday, October 31

Oct 31 - Tunis - friendly
Tunisia 2 (Azaiez 25, Gabsi 60)
Zambia 1 (Longzu 41)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000

Monday, November 1

Nov 1 - Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi tnmt
United Arab Emirates 2 (Eissa Abdullah 31, Abdul Salam Tumaa 81)
Estonia 2 (Reim 19, Oper 38)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 8,500

Nov 1 - Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi tnmt
Iraq 3
Turkmenistan 0
Att: 8,500

Wednesday, November 3

Nov 3 - Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi tnmt
Estonia 1 (Mukhadov 36)
Turkmenistan 1 (Vikmae og 47)
HT: 1-0. Att: 9,000
Sent off: Mukhadov (Estonia), 90min.

Nov 3 - Abu Dhabi - Abu Dhabi tnmt
United Arab Emirates 2
Iraq 2
Att: 11,000
Final pos: 1 Iraq, 2 UAE, 3 Estonia, 4 Turkmenistan.

Wednesday, November 10

Nov 10 - Guatemala City - friendly
Guatemala 1 (F Garcia 5)
Honduras 1 (J Martinez 40)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000

Friday, November 12

Nov 12 - Cairo - friendly
Egypt 1
Ghana 2
Att: 24,000

Saturday, November 13

Nov 13 - Paris - friendly
France 3 (Pires 46, Maurice 67, Vairelles 73)
Croatia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
France: Porato - Thuram, Leboeuf, Desailly, Candela - Micoud (Deschamps 85), Vieira, Boghossian (Dehu 73), Zidane (Djorkaeff 46) - Guivarc'h (Maurice 46), Pires (Vairelles 60).
Croatia: Pavlovic - Tomas, Stimac (Zivkovic 62), Soldo - Rukavina (Saric 78), Stanic, Boban (R Kovac 85), Asanovic, Jarni - Suker, Boksic.

Nov 13 - Glasgow - EC qual play-off, 1st leg
Scotland 0
England 2 (Scholes 21, 42)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Scotland: Sullivan - Weir, Hendry, Ritchie, Dailly, Ferguson - Burley, Collins - Gallacher (Burchill 83), Hutchison, Dodds.
England: Seaman - Campbell, Adams, Keown - P Neville, Beckham, Ince, Redknapp, Scholes - Shearer, Owen (Cole 68).

Nov 13 - Dublin - EC qual play-off, 1st leg
Rep Ireland 1 (Robbie Keane 79)
Turkey 1 (Tayfur pen 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,610. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Rep Ireland: A Kelly (Kiely 60) - Carr, Irwin, Breen, Cunningham, Roy Keane, Delap (Duff 54), Carsley, Cascarino (Connolly 75), Robbie Keane, Kilbane.
Turkey: Rustu - Ali Eren, Ogun, Tayfur, Alpay, Abdullah, Tayfun, Umit (Arif 46), Hakan Sukur, Sergen (Mert 85), Hakan Unsal (Tugay 66).

Nov 13 - Ramat Gan - EC qual play-off, 1st leg
Israel 0
Denmark 5 (Tomasson 2, 35, Tofting 66, Jorgensen 69, Steen Nielsen 72)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Israel: Awat - A Harazi, Amsalem, Benado, Ben-Shimon (Tal Idan 37), A Hazan, Banin (Telesnikov 76), Revivo, Turgeman, Berkovic, Abuksis (Benayoun 37).
Denmark: Schmeichel - Tofting (Goldbaek 75), Henriksen, Hogh, Heintze, Helveg, Steen Nielsen (S Andersen 75), Gronkjaer, Tomasson, Jorgensen (Schjonberg 83), Sand.

Nov 13 - Ljubljana - EC qual play-off, 1st leg
Slovenia 2 (Zahovic 53, Acimovic 84)
Ukraine 1 (Shevchenko 33)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Slovenia: Dabanovic - Karic, Rudonja, Milanic (Osterc 73), Knavs, Novak, Ceh, Pavlin, Milinovic, Udovic (Acimovic 46), Zahovic.
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Parfionov*, Husin**, Holovko, Kandaurov (Kardash 65), Vaschuk, Dmytrulin, Popov, Kossovskyi, Shevchenko, Rebrov.
**Sent off 60min; ** Sent off 89min.*

Nov 13 - Lecce - friendly
Italy 1 (Vanoli 26)
Belgium 3 (Strupar 6, Wilmots 70, Goor 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,550. **Ref:** Steinborn (Aut)
Italy: Buffon - Panucci (Iuliano 46), Ferrara, Cannavaro - Fuser (Pessotto 74), Albertini, D Baggio, Vanoli - Del Piero, Totti (Locatelli 78), F Inzaghi (Montella 68).
Belgium: Gaspercic - Genaux, Peeters, Staelens, Van Kerckhoven - Mbo Mpenza (Verheyen 71), Vanderhaeghe (Clement 88), Wilmots (Walem 86), Goor - Strupar (Brogno 81), De Bilde.

Nov 13 - Vigo - friendly
Spain 0
Brazil 0
Att: 31,000. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Spain: Molina - Salgado, Paco Jemez, Abelardo, Sergi - Guardiola, Etxeberria (Urzaiz 67), Luis Enrique (Mendieta 80), Valeron (Munitis 67) - Raul (Alfonso 86), Morientes (Engonga 67).
Brazil: Marcos - Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Aldair, Roberto Carlos - Ze Roberto (Giovanni 70), Marcos Assuncao, Rivaldo (Ze Elias 88), Emerson - Anderson (Jardel 65), Elber.

Nov 13 - Eindhoven - friendly
Holland 1 (Stam 59)
Czech Rep 1 (Koller 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Koren (Isr)
Holland: Van der Sar - R De Boer (Reiziger 75), Stam, F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst (Van Hintum 46), Winter, Cocu (Seedorf 87), Davids, Kluivert (Van Nistelrooy 41), Bergkamp, Overmars.
Czech Rep: Srnicek - Repka, Rada, Nedved, Latal (Lokvenc 58), Gabriel, Nemec (Cizek 52), Poborsky, Koller (Kuka 76), Horvath (Fukal 90), Bejbl (Ulich 65).

Nov 13 - Oslo - friendly
Norway 0
Germany 1 (Scholl 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,359. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Norway: Olsen - Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Andersen, Heggem - Iversen (Solskjaer 32), Mykland, Strand 74), Leonhardsen (Solbakken 74), Sorensen (Lund 74), Skammelrud (Rekdal 74) - Flo.
Germany: Lehmann - Babbel (Baumann 68), Matthaus, Worns - Bode (Wosz 46), Ziege, Jeremies, Scholl - Kirsten (Hamann 46), Bierhoff (Jancker 83), Neuville (Linke 32).

Nov 13 - Lagos - friendly
Nigeria 0
Greece 2 (Machlas 24, 61)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000

Sunday, November 14

Nov 14 - Cairo - friendly
Egypt 1
Namibia 0
Att: 7,000

Wednesday, November 17

Nov 17 - Lima - friendly
Peru 2 (Palacios 22, Solano 37)
Slovakia 1 (Kozuch 18)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000
Peru: Ibanez - Jorge Soto, Rebosio, Baylon, Salazar - Jayo, Pinillos, Solano, Palacios - Holsen, Lobaton.
Slovakia: Konig - T Zatek, Hrabal, Timko (Schulz 46) - Konecny, Janocko (Hanko 83), Valachovic (Suchy 89), Ujlaky, Leitner (Smelko 68) - Kozuch, Kozlej (Dirnbach 46).

Nov 17 - Kozani - friendly
Greece 1 (Kyparissis 61)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000
Greece: Nikopolidis (Katergiannakis 78) - Goumas, Ouzounidis, Dabizas, Frantzeskos, Stoltidis (Bassinas 83), Kyparissis (A Constantinidis 64), Zagorakis, Venetidis, Machlas (Limberopoulos 83), C Constantinidis (Koutsis 74).
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Zagortchich (Kirilov 46), Stoilov, Petkov, Iordanov, Markov, Borimirov, Petrov, Hristov (Todorov 79), Alexandrov (Berbatov 64), Petkov (Iantchev 89).

Nov 17 - Kyiv- EC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Ukraine 1 (Rebrov pen 69)
Slovenia 1 (Pavlin 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
Slovenia 3-2 on agg
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Luzhnyi, Fyodorov, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin, Kandaurov (Kovalyov 46), Skachenko (Moroz 58), Kossovskyi (Popov 74), Shevchenko, Rebrov.
Slovenia: Dabanovic - Karic (Osterc 74), Rudonja, Milanic, Galic, Milinovic, Novak, Ceh, Udovic (Acimovic 57), Zahovic, Pavlin.

Nov 17 - Bursa - EC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Turkey 0
Rep Ireland 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Agg 1-1. Turkey on away goals
Turkey: Rustu (Engin 35) - Ali Eren, Ogun, Tayfur, Alpay, Arif (Umit 83), Abdullah, Okan, Hakan Sukur, Sergen, Tayfun (Fatih 46).
Rep Ireland: Kiely - Carr (Kenna 4), Irwin, Breen, Cunningham, Roy Keane, Delap, Kinsella, Quinn, Connolly (Duff 25), Kilbane.

Nov 17 - Copenhagen - EC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Denmark 3 (Sand 3, Steen Nielsen 14, Tomasson 64)
Israel 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 41,186. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Denmark 8-0 on agg
Denmark: Schmeichel (Sorensen 18) - Tofting, Henriksen, Hogh, Heintze, Helveg (Laursen 70), Steen Nielsen, Gronkjaer (Schjonberg 83), Tomasson, Jorgensen, Sand.
Israel: Elimelech - A Harazi, Amsalem (Badir 43), Shelach, Talker, Hazan, Banin, Idan Tal (Telesnikov 28), Turgeman, Berkovic, Benayoun (Gershon 72).

Nov 17 - Wembley - EC qual play-off, 2nd leg
England 0
Scotland 1 (Hutchison 38)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 75,848. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
England 2-1 on agg
England: Seaman - Campbell, Adams, Southgate, P Neville - Beckham, Ince, Scholes (Parlour 89), Redknapp - Shearer, Owen (Heskey 64).
Scotland: Sullivan - Weir, Hendry, Dailly, Davidson - Burley, Ferguson, Collins, Hutchison, McCann (Burchill 74) - Dodds.

Nov 17 - Seville - friendly
Spain 0
Argentina 2 (Kily Gonzalez 63, Pochettino 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Psychomanis (Gre)
Spain: Molina - Ferrer, Nadal, Jemez, Aranzabal - Guardiola, Mendieta (Morientes 75), Guerrero (Valeron 70), Luis Enrique (Etxeberria 46) - Raul (Munitis 46), Alfonso (Urzaiz 22).
Argentina: Burgos - Pochettino, Ayala, Sensini, Vivas, J Zanetti, Simeone, Claudio Lopez (Gustavo Lopez 78), Ortega (Solari 80), Kily Gonzalez, Crespo (Berizzo 90).

Saturday, November 20

Nov 20 - Bogota - friendly
Colombia 1 (Varga og 65)
Slovakia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000
Colombia: Julio - Quintaba (Rivas 81), Portocarrero, Posada (C Asprilla 76), Gonzalez - Bolano, Viveros (Vargas 80), Oviedo, Montano (Grisales 60) - Bonilla, Tellez.
Slovakia: Susko - Varga - Hrabal, Schulz - Konecny, Hanko (Suchy 79), Valachovic, Janocko (Dirmbach 61), Smelko - Kozuch, Ujlaky.

Sunday, November 21

Nov 21 - Libreville - friendly
Gabon 0
Nigeria 2 (Dooyun 51, Sikin 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000

Nov 21 - Al-Ain, UAE - Asian Cup
Uzbekistan 6 (Kasinov 22, Pirhatov 38, Davietov 45, Chatskikh 52, 75, Marifaiev 90)
Bangladesh 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,000

Nov 21 - Al-Ain, UAE - Asian Cup
United Arab Emirates 3 (Said Al-Kas 56, 85, Abdessalam Jomaa pen 90)
India 1 (Vijan 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000

Tuesday, November 23

Nov 23 - Guatemala City - friendly
Guatemala 0
Slovakia 1 (Hrabal 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,000
Guatemala: Estrada - Ruano, Miranda, Molina - Corleto, J Perez, G Ramirez, Giron, Valencia - Rodas (Acevedo 22), Plata (F Garcia 62).
Slovakia: Konig - Varga - Hrabal (Schulz 90), Hadviger - Janocko (Kozlej 60), Valachovic, Hanko (Konecny 60), Zatek, Leitner - Kozuch, Ujlaky.

Thursday, November 25

Nov 25 - San Jose - friendly
Costa Rica 4 (Centeno 28, Benett 47, Smelko og 73, Arnaez 80)
Slovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,500
Costa Rica: Mesen - Delgado - Cordeo, Chinchilla - Wallace, Arnaez, Lopez, Centeno, Berry - Medford, Benett (Bryce 55).
Slovakia: Susko - Varga - Hrabal, Schulz - Konecny, Zatek, Smelko, Ujlaky, Leitner - Kozlej (Janocko 55), Kozuch (Dirnbach 62).

Saturday, November 27

Nov 27 - Pretoria - friendly
South Africa 1 (Nomvete 87)
Sweden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Senai (Bot)
S Africa: Arendse - Papi Khoman, Radebe, Issa - Tinkler, Moshoeu (Bapela 69), Mkhalele, Isaac Shai (S Lekoelea 62), D Ngobe - Masinga, Pollen Ndlanya (Nomvete 83).
Sweden: Kihlstedt (Asper 46) - R Nilsson, T Gistafsson, A Jakobsson, Tjamstrom (Linderoth 59), M Jonsson (A Svensson 89) - Allback (Wallerstedt 79), Andreas Andersson*. **Sent off, 55min.*

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Nov 11 (Sarajevo): Bosnia-Herzegovina 0 Germany B 0.
(Buenos Aires): Argentina U-23 5 (Messera pen 15, 40, Saviola 26, Romeo 31, 66) Poland U-23 0.
Nov 14 (Sydney): Australia 0 Brazil U-23 2 (Alvaro 32, Alex 38).
(Tunis): Tunisia U-23 0 Australia U-23 1 (Allsop 5).
Nov 17 (Melbourne): Australia 2 (Agostino 11, 61) Brazil U-23 2 (Ronaldinho 75, Fabio Junior 86).
(Tunis): Tunisia U-23 1 (Chabani 87) Australia U-23 1 (Mikam 44).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAM'P

Qual play-offs, 1st legs

Nov 12 (Wronki): Poland 2 (Wichniarek 31, Glowacki pen 71) Turkey 1 (Erhan Albaurak pen 82).
Nov 13 (Oslo): Norway 1 (Carew pen 45) Spain 3 (Xavi 59, Farinos pen 80, Gerard 83).
– (Moscow): Russia 0 Slovakia 1 (Czinege 66).
– (Teplice): Czech Republic 3 (Sionko 45, 71, Baros 82) Greece 0.
Nov 14 (Creteil): France 1 (Maoulida 61) Italy 1 (Ventola 49).
– Portugal 2 (Boa Morte 35, 80) Croatia 0.
– Holland 2 (Knopper 39, Bouma 78) Belgium 2 (Roussel 62, Van Handenhoven 66).

Qual play-offs, 2nd legs

Nov 17 (Santander): Spain 4 (Tamudo 6, Gerard Lopez 43, Luque 73, Jordi Ferron 78) Norway 0. *Spain 7-1 on agg.*
– (Iraklion): Greece 1 (Konstandinidis 28) Czech Republic 0. *Czech Rep 3-1 on agg.*
– (Izmir): Turkey 1 (Ahmet Dursun 16) Poland 0. *Agg 2-2. Turkey on away goals.*
– (Zagreb): Croatia 3 (Simic 38, Deranja 40, Balaban 99) Portugal 0. *Aet. Croatia 3-2 on agg.*
– (Mouscron): Belgium 0 Holland 2 (Caero 28, Bruggink 45). *Holland 4-2 on agg.*
– (Bratislava): Slovakia 3 (Barcik 51, Nemeth 67, Vyskoc 74) Russia 1 (Savelyev 90). *Slovakia 4-1 on agg.*
– (Taranto): Italy 2 (Commandini 59, Pirlo 110) France 1 (Henry 2). *Aet. Italy 3-2 on agg.*
Postponed (single match): Yugoslavia v England.

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2nd phase

1st matchday - November 23

GROUP A

Hertha Berlin 1 (Michalke 33)
Barcelona 1 (Luis Enrique 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
Hertha: Kiraly - Van Burik, Konstantinidis, Sverisson, Wosz, Daei, Preetz, Schmidt, Michalke (Herzog 87), Thom, Rehmer (Veit 71).
Barcelona: Hesp - Reiziger, F De Boer, Dehu, Guardiola, R De Boer (Simao 69), Luis Figo, Cocu, Kluivert (Dani 71), Luis Enrique, Martinez, Zenden.

Sparta Prague 0
FC Porto 2 (Drulovic 77, Jardel 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,625. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Sparta: Postulka - Gabriel, Novotny, Fukal, Hasek, Hornak, Obajdin (Jarosik 80), Baranek, Rosicky (Svoboda 87), Lokvenc, Sionko (Siegl 81).
Porto: Vitor Baia - Jorge Costa, Rubens Junior (Drulovic 73), Aloisio, Secretario, Jardel (Argel 86), Chainho (Domingos 90), Paulinho Santos, Nuno Capucho, Deco Sousa, Esquerdinha.

GROUP B

Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 25, Balbo 52)
Manchester United 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
Fiorentina: Toldo - Repka, Firicano, Pierini (Adani 78), Torricelli, Di Livio (Rossitto 67), Rui Costa, Cois, Heinrich, Batistuta, Balbo (Bressan 78).
Man Utd: Bosnich - G Neville, Stam, Berg (P Neville 69), Irwin, Beckham, Scholes, Keane, Giggs, Cole (Sheringham 64), Yorke (Solskjaer 64).

Valencia 3 (Farinos 60, Ilie 66, Kily Gonzalez 88)
Bordeaux 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Valencia: Palop - Angloma, Djukic, Pellegrino, Carboni, Farinos (Angulo 80), Mendieta, Gerard Lopez, Kily Gonzalez, Ilie (Albelda 75), Claudio Lopez (Juan Sanchez 90).
Bordeaux: Rame - Grenet, Afanou, Saveljic, Alicarte, Pavon, Diabate (Rouviere 85), Micoud, Martins (Ziani 58), Wiltord, Laslandes.

November 24

GROUP C

Kyiv Dynamo 1 (Rebrov pen 85)
Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 17, Raul 48)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - R Mamedov, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dymitrulin - Khatskevich, Bielkevich, Husin, Yashkin - Konovalov (Shatshih 46), Rebrov.
Madrid: Bizarri - Michel Salgado (Ivan Campo 27), Julio Cesar, Karembeu, Roberto Carlos - Seedorf (Karanka 90), Ivan Helguera, Guti, Savio (Sanchis 69) - Raul, Morientes.

Rosenborg 1 (Skammelsrud 47)
Bayern Munich 1 (Jancker 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,167. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Bragstad, Basma - Winsnes (Dahlum 71), Skammelrud, Berg - Sorensen, Carew, Strand.
Bayern: Kahn - Babbel, P Andersson, Kuffour, Tarnat - Fink, Effenberg, Scholl (Zickler 82) - Paulo Sergio (Santa Cruz 79), Jancker, Salihamidzic.

GROUP D

Marseille 0
Lazio 2 (Stankovic 64, Sergio Conceicao 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Marseille: Porato - Perez (Maurice 67), Berizzo, Y Fischer, Gallas - Brando, Luccin, Pires, Dalmat - Dugarry, K Diawara (Ravanelli 58).
Lazio: Marchegiani - Pancaro, Nesta, Mihajlovic, Favalli - Sergio Conceicao, Stankovic, Sensini, Nedved (Almeyda 81) - Mancini (Veron 74), Salas (Boksic 78).

Chelsea 3 (Babayaro 44, Flo 67, 86)
Feyenoord 1 (Cruz 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 29,704. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Spa)
Chelsea: De Goey - Ferrer, Desailly, Leboeuf, Babayaro - Petrescu, Deschamps (Dalla Bona 88), Wise, Poyet (Di Matteo 88) - Zola, Flo.
Feyenoord: Dudek - Van Gobbel, Van Gastel, Konterman, Van Wonderen - Bosvelt, Tomasson (Cruz 58), De Visser - Kalou, Somalia, Van Vossen (Samardzic 60).

2nd matchday - December 7

GROUP C

Bayern Munich 2 (Jancker 6, Paulo Sergio 80)
Kyiv Dynamo 1 (Rebrov 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Bayern: Kahn - Matthaus - Babbel, Kuffour, Linke - Paulo Sergio (Wiesinger 90), Fink, Tarnat - Jancker, Salihamidzic, Santa Cruz (Zickler 75).
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Khatskevich (Guerasimenko 48), Holovko, Vaschuk, Dymitrulin - Kaladze, Bielkevich, Husin, Kardash - Rebrov, Shastkih (Venlinski 46).

Real Madrid 3 (Raul 18, Savio 85, Roberto Carlos 90)
Rosenborg 1 (Carew 48)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Piraux (Blg)
Madrid: Casillas - Karembeu, Karanka, Hierro, Roberto Carlos - Helguera, Redondo, Guti (Seedorf 65; Anelka 90), Savio - Raul, Morientes (Julio Cesar 88).
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Bergdolmo, Johnsen, Hoftun, Basma - Strand, Skammelsrud, Berg - Sorensen, Carew, Jakobsen (Winsnes 51).

GROUP D

Feyenoord 3 (Cruz 72, 90, Bosvelt 83)
Marseille 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Feyenoord: Dudek - Gyan, Konterman, Van Wonderen*, Rzasa - Bosvelt, Van Gastel, Van Vossen (De Visser 37), Paauwe - Kalou, Cruz. **Sent off, 6min.*
Marseille: Porato - Berizzo (Issa 46), Gallas, Y Fischer* - Perez**, Pires (Martin 69), Brando, Luccin, Dalmat - Maurice (Bakayoko 81), Dugarry. **Sent off, 61min; **Sent off 79min.*

Lazio 0
Chelsea 0
Att: 45,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Lazio: Marchegiani - Gottardi, Nesta, Fernando Couto, Favalli - Lombardo (Boksic 69), Nedved, Simeone, Veron - Inzaghi (Salas 46), Mancini (Sergio Conceicao 79).
Chelsea: De Goey - Ferrer, Leboeuf, Desailly, Babayaro - Petrescu, Deschamps (Di Matteo 75), Wise, Poyet - Zola, Flo.

December 8

GROUP A

Barcelona 5 (Kluivert 44, 63, Luis Enrique 45, 76, Guardiola 59)
Sparta Prague 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Barcelona: Arnau - Reiziger (Xavi 83), Dehu, F De Boer, Zenden - Luis Enrique (R De Boer 77), Guardiola, Cocu - Luis Figo (Simao 77), Kluivert, Rivaldo
Sparta: Postulka - Gabriel, Novotny, Fukal - Hasek, Hornak, Svoboda (Bolf 17), Baranek, Rosicky - Lokvenc, Sionko (Jarosik 68). *Sent off: Hasek 38min.*

FC Porto 1 (Drulovic 78)
Hertha Berlin 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Porto: Vitor Baia (Henrique Hilario 74) - Carlos Secretario, Jorge Costa, Aloisio, Esquerdinha, Paulinho Santos, Carlos Chainho, Deco Sousa, Nuno Capucho, Rubens Junior (Drulovic 55), Jardel. *Sent off: Paulinho Santos 89min.*
Hertha: Kiraly - Herzog, Van Burik, Sverisson, Rehmer (Hartmann 46), Konstantinidis (Ali Daei 81), Schmidt, Wosz, Neuendorf (Thom 64), Michalke, Preetz.

GROUP B

Bordeaux 0
Fiorentina 0
Att: 28,000. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Bordeaux: Rame - Grenet, Afanou, Saveljic, Alicarte - Martins (Rouviere 85), Pavon, Diabate, Micoud - Laslandes, Wiltord.

Fiorentina: Toldo - Repka, Firicano, Pierini - Torricelli, Di Livio, Amoroso (Rossitto 70), Rui Costa, Heinrich - Chiesa (Bressan 71), Balbo.

Manchester United 3 (Keane 38, Solskjaer 47, Scholes 69)
Valencia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 54,606. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Man Utd: Van Der Gouw - G Neville, Stam, P Neville, Irwin - Beckham, Keane, Scholes (Butt 72), Giggs - Cole (Yorke 72), Solskjaer.
Valencia: Palop - Pellegrino, Bjorklund, Djukic, Mendieta, Carboni - Farinos, Milla, Angloma - Oscar Garcia (Juan Sanchez 69), Claudio Lopez (Vlaovic 85).

UEFA CUP

3rd rnd, 1st legs

(Nov 25 unless stated)

AEK Athens 2 (Nikolaidis 45, 90)
Monaco 2 (Guily 25, Simone 77)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000 (Nov 23)

Ajax 0
Mallorca 1 (Tristan 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000

Arsenal 3 (Overmars pen 13, Winterburn 81, Bergkamp 90)
Nantes 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000
Sent off: Chanelet (Nantes) 60min.

Bologna 1 (Signori 68)
Galatasaray 1 (Hakan Sukur 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000 (Nov 23)

Celta Vigo 7 (Karpin pen 18, 55, Makelele 30, Turdo 40, 50, Juanfran 42, Mostovoi 61)
Benfica 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 30,000

Deportivo La Coruna 4 (Olivares og 7, Pauleta Resende 11, Djalminha 13, Donato 30)
Panathinaikos 2 (K Warzycha 19, Galetto 66)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 25,000

Lens 1 (Schjonberg og 85)
Kaiserslauern 2 (Sikora og 30, Wagner 37)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000

Lyon 3 (Anderson 13, 45, Vairelles 77)
Werder Bremen 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000

Moscow Spartak 2 (Shirko 38, Robson 65)
Leeds United 1 (Kewell 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000 (Dec 2, in Sofia)

Olympiakos 1 (Giannakopoulos 15)
Juventus 3 (Tudor 27, Kovacevic 67, Inzaghi 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000

Parma 2 (Di Vaio 16, Stanic 61)
Sturm Graz 1 (Schopp 23)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000
Sent off: Martens (Sturm Graz) 86min.

Rangers 2 (Kohler og 18, Rod Wallace 44)
Borussia Dortmund 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000

Roma 1 (Totti pen 51)
Newcastle 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,655

Slavia Prague 4 (Dostalek 1, 47, Horvath 35, Dosek 55)
Steaua Bucharest 1 (Lutu 81)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000

Udinese 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Ballack 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000 (Nov 23)

Wolfsburg 2 (Juskowiak 21, Akonnor pen 83)
Atletico Madrid 3 (Aguilera 21, 58, Hasselbaink 37)
HT: 1-2. Att: 10,700 (Nov 23)

3rd rnd, 2nd legs

(Dec 9 unless stated)

Atletico Madrid 2 (Hasselbaink 4, Correa 86)
Wolfsburg 1 (Akonnor pen 56)

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000
Atletico Madrid 5-3 on agg

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Ballack 21)
Udinese 2 (Margiotta 9, 18)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 22,500
Agg 2-2. Udinese on away goals

Benfica 1 (Caceres og 79)
Celta Vigo 1 (Benni McCarthy 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000
Celta 8-1 on agg

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Ikpeba 28, Bobic 90)
Rangers 0
HT: 1-0. **90min:** 2-0. **Att:** 30,000 (Dec 7)
Aet. Agg 2-2. Dortmund 3-1 on pens

Galatasaray 2 (Hasan 5, Umit 29)
Bologna 1 (Ventola 8)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 23,000
Galatasaray 3-2 on agg
Sent off: Paramatti (Bologna) 85min.

Juventus 1 (Kovacevic 2)
Olympiakos 2 (Djordjevic 38, pen 82)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,000 (Dec 7)
Juventus 4-3 on agg

Kaiserslautern 1 (Hristov 21)
Lens 4 (Job 20, 40, Strasser og 56, Nyarko 90)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 25,000
Lens 5-3 on agg

Leeds United 1 (Radebe 84)
Moscow Spartak 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 39,732
Agg 2-2. Leeds on away goals

Mallorca 2 (Paco Soler 3, Biagini 73)
Ajax 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,000
Mallorca 3-0 on agg

Monaco 1 (Simone 32)
AEK Athens 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000
Monaco 3-2 on agg

Nantes 3 (Sibierski 12, 57, Vahirua 77)
Arsenal 3 (Grimandi 24, Henry 31, Overmars 42)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 22,000
Arsenal 6-3 on agg

Newcastle United 0
Roma 0
Att: 35,739
Roma 1-0 on agg

Panathinaikos 1 (Asanovic pen 77)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Makaay 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000
Deportivo 5-3 on agg

Steaua Bucharest 1 (Ciocoiu 45)
Slavia Prague 1 (Dostalek 49)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000
Slavia 5-2 on agg

Sturm Graz 3 (Reinmayer 67, 95, Vastic 87)
Parma 3 (Stanic 5, 110, Crespo 120)
HT: 0-1. **90min:** 2-1. **Att:** 13,400
Aet. Parma 5-4 on agg

Werder Bremen 4 (Bode 16, Herzog pen 39, Baumann 54, Pizarro 77)
Lyon 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,000 (Dec 7)
Bremen 4-3 on agg

AUSTRIA

Nov 5: Linz ASK 1 SV Ried 1.
Nov 6: Salzburg 0 Sturm Graz 0.
Nov 7: Grazer AK 2 Austria Wien 0; Rapid Wien 0 FC Tirol 0.
Nov 12: FC Tirol 1 Linz ASK 0.
Nov 13: Lustenau 0 Grazer AK 0; SV Ried 1 Rapid Wien 0; Sturm Graz 3 Bregenz 1.
Nov 14: Austria Wien 2 Salzburg 2.
Nov 16: Bregenz 1 Lustenau 1.
Nov 19: Rapid Wien 4 Lustenau 0.
Nov 20: Linz ASK 1 Sturm Graz 1; Salzburg 2 SV Ried 1.
Nov 23: Grazer AK 2 FC Tirol 0.
Nov 27: Austria Wien 3 Linz ASK 1; SV Ried 3 Grazer AK 1; Salzburg 4 Bregenz 1.
Nov 30: Sturm Graz 3 Rapid Wien 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	21	13	3	5	32	18	42
Rapid Wien	22	12	4	6	35	19	40
Sturm Graz	22	11	6	5	38	18	39
SV Ried	22	10	5	7	34	22	35
Austria Wien	21	9	5	7	29	26	32
Salzburg	22	8	8	6	23	20	32
Grazer AK	22	9	4	9	27	27	31
Linz ASK	22	5	5	12	23	34	20
Lustenau	21	4	4	13	15	38	16
Bregenz	21	3	4	14	14	48	13

BELGIUM

Friday, November 5

Charleroi 0
Club Brugge 2 (Martens 15, Vermant pen 84)
Att: 12,000

Saturday, November 6

Beveren 1 (Torken 60)
Lierse 1 (Smet og 61) Att: 8,000

Genk 1 (Olivieri 49)
Lokeren 1 (Janssens 21) Att: 20,114

Gent 1 (Schepens 12)
Germinal BA 3 (Herreman 16, Sonck 22, Mutavdzic 36) Att: 9,653

Mechelen 2 (Greven 3, Verhoeven 79)
Anderlecht 5 (Koller 26, 35, 40, Zetterberg 45, 55) Att: 12,000

Mouscron 0
Lommel 0 Att: 7,500

Standard 2 (Thijs 10, Pierre 43)
St Truiden 1 (Vrancken 23) Att: 10,000

Westerlo 3 (T Brogno pen 51, 63, 79)
Eendracht Aalst 2 (Van der Heyden 17, Meyssen 47) Att: 6,000

Sunday, November 7

Harlebeke 3 (Verhoene 7, Paas 68, Kaku 80)
Geel 0 Att: 3,500

Wednesday, November 10

Anderlecht 3 (Zetterberg 37, 82, Ekakia 88)
Westerlo 0 Att: 24,844

Club Brugge 1 (De Cock 85)
Mouscron 2 (Ma. Zewlakow 48, De Cock 85)
Att: 14,000

Eendracht Aalst 4 (Meyssen 37, Thiebaut 42, Van der Heyden 51, Grommen 80)
Gent 2 (Arst pen 12, 90) Att: 8,500

Geel 2 (Daelemans 67, Benediktsson 73)
Lierse 1 (Cavens 29) Att: 10,500

Genk 4 (Strupar 37, 76, T Gudjonsson 73, Ban 88)
Germinal BA 0 Att: 20,610

Harelbeke 5 (Paas 3, 45, Klomp 27, Hameg 44, Kaku 65)
Mechelen 2 (Vandenbroeck 17, Van Steenberghe 75) Att: 4,000

Lokeren 5 (Janssens 32, 34, Dago 51, Nikcevic 82, 85)
Standard 3 (Blay 74, Lukunku 79, 89) Att: 4,000

Lommel 0
Beveren 0 Att: 3,500

St Truiden 2 (Van Geel 81, 90)
Charleroi 2 (Ouedraogo 24, Cilinsek 36) Att: 4,500

Friday, November 19

Gent 0
Anderlecht 3 (Koller 14, Radzinski 51, Zetterberg 82) Att: 13,868

Saturday, November 20

Beveren 2 (Nuhiji 84, Vlaminck 90)
Club Brugge 3 (Borkelmans 23, Vermant pen 29, 63) Att: 7,000

Charleroi 2 (Kaklamanos 60, Souza 75)
Lokeren 4 (Van Geneugden pen 18, Vidarsson 28, Boeka-Lisasi 76, Budka 90) Att: 6,000

Genk 2 (Ban 12, Hendrikx 61)
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Grommen 45) Att: 19,760

Lierse 4 (Somers 42, Laeremans 47, Huysmans 84, Struyven 85)
Lommel 0 Att: 7,500

Mechelen 1 (Van Steenberghe 69)
Geel 1 (Benediktsson 55) Att: 7,000

Mouscron 3 (Ma. Zewlakow 30, Martic 80, Vanderhaeghe pen 88)
St Truiden 0 Att: 6,500

Standard 1 (Selymes 35)
Germinal BA 0 Att: 11,000

Sunday, November 21

Westerlo 4 (Lammens 26, T Brogno 62, pen 66, Mitrovic 85)
Harelbeke 1 (Sillah 81) Att: 4,000

Friday, November 26

Club Brugge 1 (Janssen 61)
Lierse 0 Att: 15,000

Saturday, November 27

Geel 0
Lommel 0 Att: 6,000

Lokeren 3 (Van Geneugden 44, Dago 62, De Vleeschauwer og 75)
Mouscron 2 (Vanhaezebrouck og 26, Vanderhaeghe pen 55) Att: 6,000

Mechelen 2 (Machiels og 16, Greven 76)
Westerlo 2 (Mitrovic 26, T Brogno 36) Att: 7,300

St Truiden 0
Beveren 2 (Torken 33, 50) Att: 4,500

Sunday, November 28

Anderlecht 1 (Koller 69)
Genk 3 (Hendrikx 40, T Gudjonsson 52, Origi 83) Att: 26,802

Eendracht Aalst 1 (S Cooreman 69)
Standard 2 (Dias 58, E Mpenza 64) Att: 6,000

Germinal BA 3 (Demkine 70, 82, 90)
Charleroi 0 Att: 6,000

Harelbeke 1 (Paas 56)
Gent 2 (Arst 35, pen 69) Att: 6,000

Saturday, December 4

Beveren 2 (Vlaminck 36, Sels 59)
Lokeren 1 (Vonasek 31) Att: 6,000

Charleroi 0
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Meyssen 22) Att: 5,000

Geel 2 (B Smits 18, Zefilho 27)
Westerlo 3 (M Verheyen 52, Mitrovic 79, T. Brogno 88) Att: 10,000

Lierse 0 St Truiden 0 Att: 7,000

Lommel 0 Club Brugge 0 Att: 6,000

Mouscron 1 (Ma. Zewlakow 59)
Germinal BA 1 (Hofmans 20) Att: 6,500

Sunday, December 5

Genk 4 (T Gudjonsson 45, Hendrikx 56, Horvath 64, Jansson 67)
Harelbeke 3 (Paas 26, 68, Sillah 87) Att: 19,710

Gent 6 (Kharif 5, 59, Arst 35, 52, 90, Joly 83)
Mechelen 1 (Caluwe pen 77) Att: 7,200

Standard 0
Anderlecht 0 Att: 25,000

Wednesday, December 8

Beveren 4 (Nuhiji 70, 72, pen 73, 80)
Westerlo 0

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	15	11	3	1	42	19	36
Genk	16	10	5	1	43	20	35
Lierse	16	9	4	3	29	15	31
Gent	16	10	0	6	46	30	30
Club Brugge	15	9	2	4	33	14	29
Germinal BA	16	8	3	5	28	24	27
Westerlo	16	7	4	5	34	34	25
Eendracht Aalst	16	7	2	7	30	25	23
Standard	16	7	2	7	24	28	23
Mouscron	16	6	4	6	29	24	22
Mechelen	16	6	2	8	23	40	20
Charleroi	16	4	5	7	20	26	17
Lokeren	16	4	5	7	26	33	17
Beveren	16	3	5	8	21	33	14
Harelbeke	16	3	4	9	23	30	13
Lommel	16	1	8	7	14	30	11
Geel	16	1	8	7	11	29	11
St Truiden	16	2	4	10	16	38	10

BULGARIA

Nov 6: Spartak Varna 2 Pirin 1; Chernomorets 0 Botev 0; Shumen 0 Dobrudzha 1; Olympic-Beroe 1 Minjor 0; Belasitsa 1 Velbazhd 2; Lovech 0 Neftohimik 1.
Nov 7: Lok Sofia 0 CSKA 0; Lev Sofia 4 Slavia 1.
Nov 20-21: Velbazhd 1 Lovech 3; Minjor 4 Belasitsa 0; CSKA 3 Olympic-Beroe 0; Dobrudzha 0 Lev Sofia 1; Botev 4 Shumen 0; Pirin 2 Chernomorets 3; Neftohimik 4 Spartak Varna 0; Slavia 1 Lok Sofia 0.
Nov 27: Spartak Varna 4 Chernomorets 2; Shumen 1 Pirin 0; Lok Sofia 4 Dobrudzha 0; Olympic-Beroe 1 Slavia 1; Belasitsa 2 CSKA 0; Lovech 6 Minjor 3; Neftohimik 1 Velbazhd 0.
Nov 28: Lev Sofia 4 Botev 1.
Dec 4: Velbazhd 2 Spartak Varna 0; Minjor 1 Neftohimik 0; Slavia 5 Belasitsa 1; Dobrudzha 2 Olympic-Beroe 1; Botev 1 Lok Sofia 0; Pirin 0 Lev Sofia 1; Chernomorets 1 Shumen 0.
Dec 5: CSKA 2 Lovech 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	15	13	1	1	41	7	40
CSKA	15	12	1	2	29	8	37
Neftohimik	15	9	4	2	22	10	31
Velbazhd	15	9	1	5	23	15	28
Lok Sofia	15	7	4	4	29	15	25
Lovech	15	8	1	6	25	15	25
Slavia	15	7	3	5	21	21	24
Spartak Varna	15	6	2	7	17	29	20
Botev	15	6	1	8	21	23	19
Chernomorets	15	5	4	6	14	18	19
Olympic-Beroe	15	5	2	8	15	23	17
Belasitsa	15	5	2	8	14	30	17
Minjor	15	5	0	10	20	25	15
Pirin	15	3	1	11	13	28	10
Dobrudzha	15	3	1	11	8	27	10
Shumen	15	3	0	12	6	24	9

CROATIA

Nov 6: Zagreb 0 Cibalia 0; Vukovar '91 0 Slaven 0; Istra 1 Osijek 1; Sibenik 1 Hajduk 3; Rijeka 4 Hrvatski drag 2; Varteks 0 Croatia 3.
Nov 23: Cibalia 3 Varteks 1; Croatia 3 Sibenik 1; Hajduk 3 Rijeka 2; Hrvatski drag 1 Istra 0; Osijek 2 Vukovar '91 1; Slaven 1 Zagreb 1.
Nov 27: Slaven 1 Cibalia 0; Zagreb 2 Osijek 1; Vukovar '91 1 Hrvatski drag 0; Istra 0 Hajduk 5; Rijeka 3 Croatia 1; Sibenik 2 Varteks 0.
Dec 4: Cibalia 3 Sibenik 0; Varteks 2 Rijeka 1; Croatia 3 Istra 1; Hrvatski drag 1 Zagreb 2; Osijek 2 Slaven 1; Hajduk 2 Vukovar '91 0.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	16	12	3	1	46	12	39
Hajduk	16	12	3	1	41	15	39
Osijek	16	9	2	5	29	24	29
Rijeka	16	7	3	6	31	21	24
Zagreb	16	5	7	4	19	19	22
Cibalia	16	5	6	5	21	19	21
Slaven	16	4	8	4	16	20	20
Varteks	16	5	3	8	18	28	18
Vukovar '91	16	3	5	8	14	26	14
Sibenik	16	2	7	7	12	26	13
Hrvatski drag	16	2	5	9	17	37	11
Istra	16	2	4	10	16	33	10

CZECH REP

Nov 7: Liberec 0 Brno 1; Zizkov 3 Opava 2; Chmel Blsany 3 Ceske Budejovice 2; Kralove 1 Bohemians 2; Drnovice 3 Jablonec 0; Ostrava 2 Dukla 0.
Nov 8: Slavia 2 Sparta 1; Olomouc 2 Teplice 2.
Nov 20-21: Bohemians 2 Liberec 0; Sparta 6 Olomouc 0; Ostrava 2 Kralove 2; Dukla 1 Opava 0; Jablonec 3 Zizkov 0; Teplice 2 Drnovice 2; Ceske Budejovice 0 Slavia 1; Brno 3 Chmel Blsany 0.
Nov 26: Olomouc 1 Ceske Budejovice 1.
Nov 28: Drnovice 0 Sparta 1; Zizkov 3 Teplice 1; Chmel Blsany 1 Bohemians 1; Opava 2 Jablonec 0; Kralove 1 Dukla 1; Liberec 1 Ostrava 0.
Nov 29: Slavia 3 Brno 1.
Dec 3: Slavia 2 Bohemians 0.
Dec 4: Zizkov 2 Sparta 3.
Dec 5: Dukla 2 Jablonec 1; Opava 1 Teplice 1; Liberec 1 Kralove 0; Olomouc 1 Brno 1; Drnovice 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Chmel Blsany 1 Ostrava 0

CZECH REP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia	16	12	4	0	27	7	40
Sparta	16	11	3	2	40	15	36
Drnovice	16	8	3	5	20	14	27
Bohemians	16	6	7	3	16	11	25
Ostrava	16	5	6	5	22	19	21
Liberec	16	5	6	5	12	13	21
Teplice	16	5	6	5	21	23	21
Ceske Budejovice	16	6	3	7	20	22	21
Dukla	16	5	5	6	16	22	20
Brno	16	5	4	7	18	20	19
Chmel Blsany	16	5	3	8	16	29	18
Opava	16	4	5	7	21	19	17
Jablonec	16	4	4	8	15	25	16
Olomouc	16	2	9	5	16	24	15
Kralove	16	3	5	8	16	23	14
Zizkov	16	3	5	8	24	34	14

DENMARK

Nov 7: FC Copenhagen 1 Brondby 1; AB 2 AGF 3; OB 0 Herfolge 1; Silkeborg 3 Lyngby 0; Esbjerg 3 Vejle 1.
Nov 8: AaB 1 Viborg 2.
Nov 21: Vejle 1 AaB 1; Viborg 2 AB 1; Brondby 0 Silkeborg 0; Lyngby 2 OB 0; Herfolge 3 Esbjerg 2.
Nov 22: AGF 1 FC Copenhagen 0.
Nov 27: OB 1 Brondby 1.
Nov 28: Silkeborg 4 AGF 1; FC Copenhagen 2 Viborg 1; AB 1 AaB 1; Esbjerg 2 Lyngby 3; Herfolge 3 Vejle 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Herfolge	18	11	4	3	32	23	37
Brondby	18	9	4	5	31	19	31
Silkeborg	18	8	5	5	34	17	29
Lyngby	18	9	2	7	30	27	29
AaB	18	7	7	4	30	22	28
Viborg	18	8	4	6	25	25	28
AB	18	7	6	5	28	22	27
FC Copenhagen	18	7	3	8	19	17	24
AGF	18	4	6	8	18	29	18
OB	18	3	8	7	15	25	17
Esbjerg	18	4	2	12	18	35	14
Vejle	18	1	9	8	17	36	12

ENGLAND

Saturday, November 6

Aston Villa 0
Southampton 1 (Richards 84) Att: 26,474

Bradford 1 (Mills 43)
Coventry 1 (McAllister 1) Att: 17,587

Liverpool 2 (Murphy 65, Redknapp 69)
Derby 0 Att: 44,467

Man Utd 2 (Cole 30, 83)
Leicester 0 Att: 55,191

Middlesbrough 1 (Ricard 76)
Sunderland 1 (Reddy 78) Att: 34,793

Sheffield Wed 2 (De Bilde pen 56, 78)
Watford 2 (Ngonge 21, Page 59) Att: 21,658

Sunday, November 7

Chelsea 0
West Ham 0 Att: 34,935

Newcastle 1 (Shearer pen 46)
Everton 1 (Campbell 62) Att: 36,614

Tottenham 2 (Iversen 7, Sherwood 20)
Arsenal 1 (Vieira 39) Att: 36,085

Wimbledon 2 (Hartson 31, Gayle 65)
Leeds 0 Att: 18,747

Saturday, November 20

Arsenal 5 (Overmars 26, 61, 78, Bergkamp 40, 49)
Middlesbrough 1 (Ricard 68) Att: 38,082

Derby 1 (Delap 90)
Man Utd 2 (Butt 53, Cole 83) Att: 33,370

Everton 1 (Campbell 15)
Chelsea 1 (Flo 90) Att: 38,225

Leeds 2 (Smith 54, Harte pen 80)
Bradford 1 (Windass 90) Att: 39,937

Leicester 2 (Cottee 22, 58)
Wimbledon 1 (Gayle 21) Att: 18,255

Southampton 0
Tottenham 1 (Leonhardsen 81) Att: 15,248

Sunderland 0
Liverpool 2 (Owen 63, Berger 85) Att: 42,015

Watford 1 (Ngonge 53)
Newcastle 1 (Dabizas 59) Att: 19,539

Sunday, November 21

West Ham 4 (Wanchope 27, Di Canio pen 62, Foe 69, Lampard 76)
Sheffield Wed 3 (Rudi 38, Jonk 47, Booth 65) Att: 23,015

Monday, November 22

Coventry 2 (Roussel 8, Keane 65)
Aston Villa 1 (Dublin 41) Att: 20,184

Saturday, November 27

Coventry 0
Leicester 1 (Heskey 60) Att: 22,021

Everton 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 34,750

Middlesbrough 0
Wimbledon 0 Att: 31,400

Watford 2 (Ngonge 4, Johnson 49)
Sunderland 3 (Page og 24, Phillips 33, McCann 70) Att: 21,590

West Ham 1 (Sinclair 45)
Liverpool 0 Att: 26,043

Sunday, November 28

Arsenal 2 (Henry 11, 51)
Derby 1 (Sturridge 2) Att: 37,964

Chelsea 1 (Flo 16)
Bradford 0 Att: 31,591

Leeds 1 (Bridges 90)
Southampton 0 Att: 39,288

Newcastle 2 (Glass 5, Dabizas 58)
Tottenham 1 (Armstrong 44) Att: 36,460

Saturday, December 4

Aston Villa 0
Newcastle 1 (Ferguson 65) Att: 34,531

Bradford 1 (Mills 60)
Middlesbrough 1 (Ricard 13) Att: 17,708

Leicester 0
Arsenal 3 (Grimandi 23, Dixon 54, Overmars 75) Att: 20,495

Man Utd 5 (Irwin pen 25, Solskjaer 29, 43, 52, 58)
Everton 1 (Jeffers 7) Att: 55,133

Southampton 0
Coventry 0 Att: 15,148

Sunderland 4 (Quinn 1, 38, Phillips 23, 63)
Chelsea 1 (Poyet 81) Att: 41,377

Wimbledon 5 (Cort 15, Earle 32, Hartson 61, Euell 67, Gayle 78)
Watford 0 Att: 14,553

Sunday, December 5

Derby 0
Leeds 1 (Harte pen 90) Att: 29,455

Liverpool 4 (Hyypia 21, Murphy 41, Gerrard 69, Thompson 79)
Sheffield Wed 1 (Alexandersson 18) Att: 42,517

Monday, December 6

Tottenham 0
West Ham 0 Att: 36,233

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	17	12	2	3	30	19	38
Man Utd	16	11	3	2	40	21	36
Arsenal	17	11	2	4	31	16	35
Sunderland	17	10	4	3	31	17	34
Liverpool	17	9	3	5	24	14	30
Leicester	17	9	2	6	26	23	29
Tottenham	16	8	3	5	25	20	27
West Ham	16	7	4	5	17	14	25
Chelsea	15	7	3	5	21	15	24
Middlesbrough	17	7	3	7	21	24	24
Coventry	17	5	6	6	23	18	21
Everton	17	5	6	6	25	27	21
Wimbledon	17	4	8	5	27	29	20
Newcastle	17	5	4	8	28	30	19
Aston Villa	17	5	4	8	14	19	19
Southampton	16	4	5	7	20	25	17
Bradford	16	3	4	9	13	25	13
Derby	17	3	3	11	15	29	12
Watford	17	3	2	12	13	33	11
Sheffield Wed	16	1	3	12	14	40	6

FRANCE

Saturday, November 6

Bordeaux 1 (Micoud 76)
Sedan 1 (N'Diefi 37) Att: 30,000

Paris SG 2 (Madar 35, L Leroy 87)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 44,596

Rennes 0
Bastia 0 Att: 14,000

Strasbourg 0
Nancy 2 (Wiart 61, Lefevre 82) Att: 20,000

Sunday, November 7

Lyon 3 (Delmotte 36, Anderson 62, 82)
Le Havre 0 Att: 36,000

Metz 0
Lens 0 Att: 15,000

Monaco 1 (Marquez 30)
Marseille 1 (Luccin 24) Att: 16,000

Nantes 3 (Sibierski 20, Olembe 40, Savinaud 90)
Auxerre 1 (Marlet 31) Att: 25,000

Troyes 2 (Djukic pen 13, Hamed 57)
Montpellier 1 (Silvestre 37) Att: 7,000

Tuesday, November 9

Sedan 2 (Mionnet 15, Di Rocco 33)
Strasbourg 1 (Garay 75) Att: 12,000

Wednesday, November 10

Auxerre 0
Troyes 1 (Boutal 40) Att: 15,000

Bastia 0 Metz 0 Att: 4,000

Le Havre 3 (Debeve 34, Diallo 43, Pouget pen 88)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 15,000

Lens 3 (Job 52, 71, Nouma 59)
Paris SG 2 (Madar 21, Christian pen 75) Att: 39,000

Marseille 1 (Maurice 17)
Nantes 1 (Sibierski 37) Att: 45,000

Montpellier 1 (Delaye 74)
Rennes 2 (Nonda 14, Gregoire 79) Att: 10,000

Nancy 1 (Correa 69)
Monaco 2 (Simone 73, Da Costa 88) Att: 15,000

Saint-Etienne 1 (Pedron 9)
Lyon 1 (Anderson 7) Att: 36,000

Friday, November 19

Bordeaux 1 (Alicarte 38)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Pedron 6, Boudarene 78) Att: 34,000

Metz 2 (Saha 18, Padovano pen 43)
Montpellier 2 (Loko 48, Delaye 85) Att: 15,000

Paris SG 2 (Cesar 52, L Leroy 53)
Bastia 0 Att: 41,000

Rennes 2 (Nonda 26, Gregoire 65)
Troyes 2 (Djukic 76, Mendy 87) Att: 12,000

Strasbourg 0
Le Havre 1 (Lesage 20) Att: 10,000

Saturday, November 20

Lyon 1 (Anderson pen 75)
Lens 0 Att: 30,000

Marseille 0
Auxerre 1 (Marlet 71) Att: 45,000

Monaco 2 (Marquez 11, Lamouchi 31)
Sedan 1 (Oliveira 21) Att: 4,000

Nantes 2 (Sibierski 64, Carriere 77)
Nancy 0 Att: 20,000

Saturday, November 27

Le Havre 1 (Mamouni 26)
Monaco 4 (Simone 16, 75, Lamouchi 45, Marquez 77) Att: 17,000

Montpellier 0
Paris SG 1 (Christian 60) Att: 12,000

Nancy 2 (Cascarino 51, pen 75)
Marseille 2 (Maurice 60, 63) Att: 17,000

Rennes 1 (Bardon 11)
Auxerre 0 Att: 16,000

Saint-Etienne 0
Strasbourg 1 (Bertin 80) Att: 25,000

Troyes 2 (Djukic 6, Saifi 87)
Metz 2 (Skachenko 45, Bastien 90) Att: 13,000

Sunday, November 28

Bastia 3 (Lachuer 20, Nee 75, 85)
Lyon 0 Att: 8,000

Lens 3 (Sakho 1, Nyarko 28, Coridon 68)
Bordeaux 3 (Wiltord 33, Ziani 75, 85) Att: 35,000

Sedan 0 Nantes 0 Att: 10,000

Wednesday, December 1

Monaco 2 (Gallardo 27, 42)
Auxerre 0 Att: 8,500

Friday, December 3

Bordeaux 2 (Alicarte 60, Wiltord 78)
Montpellier 0 Att: 24,500

Lyon 1 (Delmotte 37)
Troyes 3 (Boutal 20, Djukic 69, 81) Att: 34,951

Marseille 2 (Maurice 52, Dugarry 55)
Le Havre 0 Att: 35,000

Nancy 0
Sedan 2 (Quint 46, 82) Att: 7,951

Nantes 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Aloisio 34) Att: 30,121

Strasbourg 2 (Luyindula 16, Marsiglia 27)
Bastia 0 Att: 10,185

Sunday, December 5

Auxerre 1 (Kapo 72)
Metz 1 (Skachenko 39) Att: 7,500

Monaco 2 (Trezeguet 15, 40)
Lens 0 Att: 12,000

Paris SG 1 (A Cisse 2)
Rennes 0 Att: 43,991

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	18	12	3	3	40	16	39
Paris SG	18	10	3	5	27	21	33
Lyon	18	9	4	5	21	17	31
Auxerre	18	9	3	6	24	22	30
Bordeaux	18	7	6	5	30	27	27
Sedan	18	8	3	7	26	27	27
Marseille	18	6	8	4	25	18	26
Rennes	18	7	5	6	25	23	26
Saint-Etienne	18	7	5	6	26	26	26
Metz	18	4	11	3	21	16	23
Troyes	18	7	2	9	20	28	23
Bastia	18	5	7	6	23	22	22
Strasbourg	18	6	4	8	18	26	22
Nantes	18	6	2	10	19	22	20
Lens	18	5	5	8	15	23	20
Le Havre	18	5	4	9	19	30	19
Nancy	18	4	5	9	24	28	17
Montpellier	18	3	4	11	19	30	13

GERMANY

Friday, November 5

Freiburg 3 (Sellimi 26, Zeyer 27, Kobiashvili 90)
Duisburg 0 Att: 25,000

Hansa Rostock 3 (Lange 4, Baumgart 5, Oswald 55)
Hamburg 3 (Butt pen 39, Grammozis 48, Grubac 76)
Att: 19,500

Saturday, November 6

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Addo 43)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 33) Att: 68,600

Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Guie-Mien 17, Weber 23, Fjortoft 28, Heldt pen 89)
Hertha 0 Att: 28,000

1860 Munich 2 (Prosenik 18, Tapalovic 84)
Unterhaching 1 (Seitz 62) Att: 31,000

Ulm 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Jancker 44) Att: 23,000

Wolfsburg 0
Stuttgart 2 (Gerber 38, Hosny 90) Att: 15,568

Sunday, November 7

Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Weissenberger 6, 71)
Werder Bremen 2 (Bode 52, Seidel 88) Att: 25,000

Kaiserslautern 2 (Wagner 83, Djorkaeff 88)
Schalke 1 (Wilmots pen 45) Att: 41,500

Friday, November 19

Werder Bremen 3 (Ailton 3, 66, Bode 90)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Kutschera 24) Att: 26,235

Saturday, November 20

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Emerson 36)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Baumgart 19) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 6 (Jeremies 4, Matthaus 12, Sergio 44, Jancker 71, 87, Zickler 75)
Freiburg 1 (Sellimi 14) Att: 46,000

Hertha 0
Kaiserslautern 1 (Strasser 38) Att: 40,992

Schalke 1 (Sand 17)
Wolfsburg 1 (Nowak 19) Att: 30,500

Stuttgart 2 (Dundee 16, Gerber 82)
Ulm 0 Att: 47,000

Sunday, November 21

Duisburg 3 (Reiss 34, Bugera 54, Voss 90)
1860 Munich 0 Att: 11,750

Hamburg 5 (Yeboah 16, 49, 74, Prager 26, Fischer 78)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 32,460

Friday, November 26

Freiburg 0
Stuttgart 2 (Listzes 20, Dundee 76) Att: 25,000

Ulm 1 (Sand og 45)
Schalke 1 (Sand 76) Att: 20,000

Saturday, November 27

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Weissenberger 58)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Brdaric 40, Ze Roberto 62)
Att: 19,129

Hansa Rostock 1 (Baumgart 19)
Unterhaching 1 (Oberleitner 70) Att: 13,500

1860 Munich 1 (Riedl 85)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 69,000

Wolfsburg 2 (Feldhoff 12, O'Neil 22)
Hertha 3 (Preetz 45, Wosz 52, Michalke 54) Att: 16,866

Sunday, November 28

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Herrlich 24, 48)
Duisburg 2 (Tofting 33, Reiss 45) Att: 60,500

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Kaiserslautern 1 (Koch 42) Att: 35,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Bode 62, Ailton 81)
Hamburg 1 (Butt pen 90) Att: 35,838

Wednesday, December 1

Unterhaching 1 (Rraklli pen 40)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 10,000

Friday, December 3

Duisburg 2 (Beierle 22, 66)
Hansa Rostock 2 (Baumgart 37, Arvidsson 54) Att: 10,758

Hamburg 1 (Yeboah 77)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 26,494

Saturday, December 4

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Zivkovic 5, Kirsten pen 47, Emerson 66)
Werder Bremen 2 (Pizarro 20, Ailton 54) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 1 (Jeremies 23)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Kohler 50) Att: 53,000

Hertha 3 (Wosz 2, Sverisson 66, Preetz 73)
Ulm 0 Att: 37,942

Schalke 2 (Asamoah 38, Wilmots pen 82)
Freiburg 2 (Sellimi pen 34, Bruns 87) Att: 29,100

Stuttgart 1 (Thiam 64)
1860 Munich 3 (Schroth 33, Zelic 54, Borimirov 83)
Att: 38,000

Sunday, December 5

Kaiserslautern 2 (Hristov 33, Djorkaeff 67)
Wolfsburg 2 (Akonnor pen 57, Ballwanz 65) Att: 39,985

Unterhaching 2 (Strehmel 18, Breitenreiter pen 83)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 5,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	14	8	3	3	26	12	27
Bayer Leverkusen	14	7	6	1	23	14	27
Hamburg	14	7	5	2	30	15	26
1860 Munich	14	7	3	4	22	16	24
B Dortmund	14	6	5	3	19	12	23
Kaiserslautern	14	7	2	5	19	23	23
Werder Bremen	14	6	4	4	31	20	22
Stuttgart	14	6	2	6	15	16	20
Schalke	14	4	7	3	18	16	19
Unterhaching	14	5	3	6	14	15	18
Hertha	14	4	6	4	20	23	18
Hansa Rostock	14	4	5	5	21	29	17
Wolfsburg	14	4	5	5	19	27	17
Freiburg	14	4	4	6	21	21	16
Eintracht Frankfurt	14	3	2	9	16	21	11
Arminia Bielefeld	14	2	5	7	11	26	11
Duisburg	14	1	7	6	16	23	10
Ulm	14	2	4	8	11	23	10

GREECE

Nov 6: Ionikos 1 AEK 1.
Nov 7: Kalamata 2 Proodeftiki 0; Iraklis 2 Ethnikos A 0; Panionios 2 Panahaiki 1; Apollon 0 Xanthi 0; Kavala 0 OFI 1.
Nov 8: Paniliakos 0 Panathinaikos 1; Trikala 0 Aris 1; Olympiakos 4 PAOK 1.
Nov 15: AEK 0 Olympiakos 2.
Nov 20: AEK 2 Aris 0; Xanthi 1 Kavala 0.
Nov 21: Panathinaikos 2 Olympiakos 0; Proodeftiki 1 Panionios 0; Iraklis 2 Kalamata 1; Ethnikos A 3 Paniliakos 1; Panahaiki 1 Apollon 2; PAOK 3 Ionikos 0; OFI 2 Trikala 0.
Nov 28: Kalamata 1 Panionios 3; Paniliakos 4 Iraklis 3; Apollon 0 Proodeftiki 2; Kavala 0 Panahaiki 0; Trikala 2 Xanthi 1; Aris 0 PAOK 0; AEK 1 OFI 2.
Nov 29: Olympiakos 5 Ethnikos A 0; Ionikos 2 Panathinaikos 2.
Dec 4: Iraklis 3 Olympiakos 4.
Dec 5: Paniliakos 3 Kalamata 1; Panionios 3 Apollon 1; Proodeftiki 1 Kavala 1; Panahaiki 3 Trikala 0; Panathinaikos 3 Aris 0; Xanthi 2 AEK 2; OFI 2 PAOK 0.
Dec 6: Ethnikos A 1 Ionikos 2.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	10	9	0	1	32	7	27
Panathinaikos	10	8	2	0	23	5	26
OFI	10	8	1	1	19	9	25
Aris	10	5	3	2	13	9	18
Paniliakos	10	5	2	3	14	11	17
AEK	10	4	3	3	18	16	15
Iraklis	10	5	0	5	21	20	15
Xanthi	10	3	5	2	11	6	14
Ionikos	10	3	5	2	11	12	14
Panahaiki	10	3	3	4	12	10	12
PAOK	10	3	3	4	16	17	12
Ethnikos A	10	4	0	6	11	18	12
Panionios	10	4	0	6	13	25	12
Proodeftiki	10	2	2	6	7	15	8
Apollon	10	1	3	6	6	13	6
Kavala	10	1	3	6	4	13	6
Kalamata	10	1	3	6	8	20	6
Trikala	10	1	2	7	8	21	5

HOLLAND

Wednesday, November 3

NEC 0
Heerenveen 4 (Radomski 7, Nurmela 32, Denneboom 45, Lurling 87) Att: 8,500

Friday, November 5

Utrecht 2 (Groenendijk 6, Kiekens og 66)
Fortuna 1 (Landerl 61) Att: 13,600

Saturday, November 6

De Graafschap 0
Willem II 2 (Bombarda 40, Arts 73) Att: 10,150

MVV 3 (Emerson 18, Falix 64, Perez 89)
AZ 4 (El Hadrioui 9, Huiberts 14, Bosman 55, Van Galen 90) Att: 5,900

Sunday, November 7

NEC 2 (De Gier 24, Janssen 55)
PSV 1 (Van Nistelrooy 57) Att: 9,300

RKC 3 (Lanckohr 1, Van der Leegte 55, Schops 73)
Cambuur 2 (Nelisse 29, 50) Att: 5,500

Roda JC 3 (Van der Luer 6, Peeters 83, 90)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 6,300

Sparta 1 (Elkhattabi pen 64)
Ajax 2 (Verlaat 33, Marilia og 59) Att: 10,259

Twente 3 (De Haan og 6, Peiremans 13, 28)
Feyenoord 3 (Rzasa 9, Kalou 63, Somalia 90)
Att: 13,200

Friday, November 19

AZ 2 (Buskermolen pen 12, Verlinden og 24)
Twente 1 (Van der Laan pen 40) Att: 6,750

MVV 3 (Taiwo 51, Perez 62, Kortchaguine 77)
Feyenoord 3 (Korneev pen 4, 24, Somalia 20)
Att: 7,800

NEC 0
Sparta 1 (Elkhattabi 11) Att: 9,000

Saturday, November 20

Den Bosch 0
RKC 3 (Hoogendorp 64, Yuri Cornelisse 82, 90)
Att: 4,493

Fortuna 1 (Gesthuizen 47)
De Graafschap 1 (Viscaal 80) Att: 7,000

Heerenveen 1 (Jensen 2)
Vitesse 3 (Van den Brom 4, Grozdic 18, Laros 51)
Att: 13,970

Willem II 2 (Shoukov 21, Arts 74)
Roda JC 2 (Peeters 80, Van der Luer 87) Att: 14,300

Sunday, November 21

Ajax 2 (Winter 33, Gronkjaer 60)
Utrecht 0 Att: 44,000

Cambuur 0
PSV 1 (Dirkx 59) Att: 9,150

Friday, November 26

Heerenveen 4 (Lurling 2, G De Nooijer 25, Jensen 27, Nurmela 68)
Cambuur 1 (Van der Heide 12) Att: 13,700

Saturday, November 27

Fortuna 2 (Landerl 7, Kool pen 54)
NEC 2 (De Gier 35, Janssen pen 68) Att: 7,000

Twente 4 (Ten Hag 21, Peiremans 43, Vennegoor of Hesselink 49, Van der Laan 87)
Willem II 0 Att: 12,250

Sunday, November 28

AZ 1 (Bosman 31)
Ajax 2 (Knopper 16, Hose 84) Att: 8,275

De Graafschap 2 (Emam 20, 27)
Vitesse 2 (Van den Brom 2, Van Hooijdonk 51) Att: 9,800

Feyenoord 1 (Van Gastel pen 60)
PSV 0 Att: 35,000

RKC 2 (Lanckohr 5, Heesakkers 66)
Sparta 1 (Nielsen 15) Att: 5,500

Utrecht 2 (Groenendijk 10, Dijkhuizen 57)
Den Bosch 1 (Vos 62) Att: 13,000

Tuesday, November 30

Roda JC 3 (Tchoutang 12, Zafarin 40, Lawal 71)
MVV 1 (Taiwo 58) Att: 7,700

Wednesday, December 1

Cambuur 4 (Vergoossen 68, Van der Heide 84, Nelisse 89, Van Utrecht 90)
Utrecht 3 (J De Jong 34, Martel 36, Van der Gaag 62) Att: 7,600

De Graafschap 2 (Meerdink 87, Lindenbergh pen 90)
Ajax 5 (Boussatta 52, Bosman 68, Ricksen 69, 85, Mutsaers 89) Att: 8,700

Den Bosch 0
Heerenveen 2 (Nurmela 33, Pahlplatz 85) Att: 4,213

Feyenoord 1 (Kalou 44)
Willem II 0 Att: 28,000

Twente 1 (Booth 40)
Fortuna 0 Att: 12,250

Vitesse 2 (Zongo 22, 39)
RKC 1 (Hoogendorp pen 53) Att: 24,000

Saturday, December 4

Fortuna 1 (Kool 89)
Den Bosch 1 (Van der Laan 63) Att: 6,000

MVV 0
Twente 2 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 48, Van der Meyde 83) Att: 4,500

PSV 2 (Nilis 33, Bouma 51)
Roda JC 0 Att: 28,500

Sparta 1 (Langerak 20)
Feyenoord 3 (Cruz 52, 57, Kalou 86) Att: 10,611

Vitesse 0
AZ 2 (Bosman 39, Boussatta 61) Att: 25,500

Sunday, December 5

Ajax 1 (Wamberto 68)
RKC 2 (Govedarica 42, Tim Cornelisse 52) Att: 40,000

NEC 1 (Janssen pen 88)
Cambuur 0 Att: 8,000

Willem II 4 (Bombarda 3, 60, 85, Galasek 71)
Utrecht 3 (Martel pen 6, Robbemond 18, Cairo 25) Att: 14,000

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	15	11	2	2	45	20	35
PSV	14	11	1	2	49	11	34
Heerenveen	15	10	1	4	29	16	31
Twente	16	8	6	2	28	16	30
Feyenoord	15	8	5	2	29	15	29
Roda JC	15	9	2	4	26	18	29
Willem II	15	9	2	4	29	29	29
RKC	16	9	2	5	29	27	29
Vitesse	15	8	4	3	28	21	28
AZ	16	9	1	6	33	27	28
Utrecht	16	7	0	9	24	30	21
Sparta	15	4	0	11	22	36	12
NEC	15	3	2	10	19	34	11
Fortuna	16	2	4	10	17	28	10
De Graafschap	15	1	6	8	14	25	9
MVV	15	2	3	10	21	40	9
Cambuur	16	2	3	11	15	35	9
Den Bosch	16	1	4	11	14	43	7

HUNGARY

Oct 29: Zalaegerszeg 0 MTK 0; Kispest-Honved 1 Ujpest 1.
Oct 30: Siofok 2 Nagykanizsa 0; Haladas 1 Diosgyor 0; Szeged 0 Debrecen 4; Ferencvaros 0 Tatabanya 1; Gyor 1 Vac 1; Gazszer 1 Dunaferr 2.
Nov 1: Vasas 4 Nyiregyhaza 0.
Nov 5: Ujpest 1 Szeged 0.
Nov 6: Tatabanya 0 Kispest-Honved 0; Debrecen 1 Haladas 1; Diosgyor 1 Vasas 1; Nyiregyhaza 1 Gazszer 1; Dunaferr 4 Zalaegerszeg 0; MTK 3 Vac 0.
Nov 7: Nagykanizsa 0 Ferencvaros 2.
Nov 8: Siofok 0 Gyor 1.
Nov 12: Kispest-Honved 0 Nagykanizsa 0; Vasas 2 Debrecen 0.
Nov 13: Vac 1 Dunaferr 1; Szeged 1 Tatabanya 4; Zalaegerszeg 1 Nyiregyhaza 0; Gyor 2 MTK 3; Ferencvaros 1 Siofok 2; Haladas 0 Ujpest 1.
Nov 15: Gazszer 2 Diosgyor 2.
Nov 20: Nyiregyhaza 2 Vac 2; Dunaferr 1 MTK 1; Ferencvaros 2 Gyor 2.
Nov 26: Vasas 3 Tatabanya 0.
Nov 27: Zalaegerszeg 2 Debrecen 0; MTK 2 Nyiregyhaza 0; Szeged 1 Siofok 1; Vac 0 Diosgyor 2; Haladas 2 Nagykanizsa 0.
Nov 29: Gyor 2 Dunaferr 4.
Dec 1: Nagykanizsa 1 Szeged 2; Debrecen 1 Gazszer 1.
Dec 3: Ujpest 1 Zalaegerszeg 1.
Dec 4: Tatabanya 0 Gazszer 0; Debrecen 4 Vac 1; Diosgyor 0 MTK 2; Nyiregyhaza 1 Dunaferr 1; Siofok 2 Haladas 4; Kispest-Honved 0 Gyor 3; Ferencvaros 4 Szeged 0.
Dec 5: Nagykanizsa 1 Vasas 2.
Dec 8: Siofok 1 Kispest-Honved 0; Diosgyor 2 Zalaegerszeg 1; Tatabanya 1 Haladas 1; Ujpest 4 Vasas 1.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunaferr	16	9	6	1	38	15	33
MTK	16	9	6	1	29	12	33
Vasas	16	10	1	5	28	16	31
Debrecen	16	7	5	4	23	17	26
Gazszer	15	6	7	2	21	18	25
Tatabanya	16	6	7	3	19	18	25
Ujpest	15	6	6	3	24	19	24
Zalaegerszeg	16	6	5	5	20	12	23
Gyor	16	5	6	5	24	18	21
Ferencvaros	15	5	4	6	22	15	19
Diosgyor	16	4	6	6	17	21	18
Haladas	16	5	3	8	18	24	18
Nyiregyhaza	16	4	5	7	15	26	17
Nagykanizsa	15	3	6	6	14	19	15
Kispest-Honved	15	3	6	6	13	18	15
Siofok	16	5	2	9	13	23	14
Szeged	16	3	4	9	12	37	13
Vac	16	1	5	10	15	35	8

ITALY

Saturday, November 6

Cagliari 1 (Mboma 54)
Fiorentina 1 (Di Livio 10) Att: 17,013

Perugia 1 (Ba 75)
Bari 2 (Andersson 43, Masinga 59) Att: 18,500

Sunday, November 7

Bologna 3 (Andersson 36, 68, Signori 75)
Inter 0 Att: 35,525

Lazio 4 (Veron 17, Salas 22, Negro 45, Boksic 63)
Verona 0 Att: 42,916

Lecce 1 (Lucarelli 53)
Udinese 0 Att: 12,030

Milan 3 (Bierhoff 56, Weah 67, Orlandini 77)
Venezia 0 Att: 50,919

Piacenza 1 (Di Napoli pen 45)
Parma 2 (Crespo 21, Boghossian 31) Att: 9,745

Reggina 0
Roma 4 (Oshadogan og 5, Montella pen 28, Fabio Junior 39, Totti pen 45) Att: 25,599

Torino 0
Juventus 0 Att: 47,344

Saturday, November 20

Fiorentina 1 (Pierini 81)
Perugia 0 Att: 33,843

Udinese 2 (Sottil 81, Muzzi 88)
Bologna 1 (Paramatti 62) Att: 17,651

Sunday, November 21

Bari 1 (Andersson pen 90)
Reggina 1 (Kallon 11) Att: 15,713

Inter 6 (Georgatos 2, Zanetti 12, Jugovic 38, Zamorano 45, Ronaldo pen 50, Recoba 65)
Lecce 0 Att: 62,532

Juventus 3 (Conte 23, Inzaghi 50, Kovacevic 90)
Milan 1 (Zidane og 22) Att: 48,118

Parma 3 (Crespo pen 58, Di Vaio 59, 83)
Cagliari 1 (Mboma 56) Att: 18,775

Roma 4 (Delvecchio 7, 26, Montella 11, 31)
Lazio 1 (Mihajlovic pen 53) Att: 77,988

Venezia 0
Piacenza 0 Att: 7,806

Verona 0
Torino 1 (Artistico 23) Att: 12,468

Saturday, November 27

Bologna 0
Fiorentina 0 Att: 26,506

Piacenza 1 (Di Napoli pen 42)
Verona 0 Att: 9,269

Sunday, November 28

Cagliari 2 (Macellari 16, Berretta 22)
Bari 3 (Osmanovski 24, 42, Olivares 85) Att: 14,867

Lazio 0
Juventus 0 Att: 72,101

Lecce 2 (Lucarelli 60, Viali 80)
Venezia 1 (Valtolina 23) Att: 12,220

Milan 2 (Boban 8, 50)
Parma 1 (Crespo 46) Att: 55,224

Reggina 0
Inter 1 (Recoba 90) Att: 27,272

Torino 0
Perugia 1 (Calori 45) Att: 19,208

Udinese 0
Roma 2 (Delvecchio 73, 87) Att: 19,928

Saturday, December 4

Juventus 2 (Inzaghi 55, 70)
Bologna 0 Att: 35,458

Peruzia 0
Lazio 2 (Salas 37, Conceicao 63) Att: 15,471

Sunday, December 5

Bari 3 (Marcolini 40, Neqrouz 53, 75)
Piacenza 2 (Rizzitelli 30, Dionigi 65) Att: 13,348

Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 21, Heinrich 41)
Milan 1 (Bierhoff 1) Att: 38,061

Inter 3 (Recoba 20, Vieri 57, Russo 90)
Udinese 0 Att: 59,462

Parma 4 (Crespo 5, 58, Ortega 45, Cruz og 75)
Torino 1 (Cruz 90) Att: 18,993

Roma 3 (Totti 41, Candela 63, 86)
Lecce 2 (Sesa 50, Pivotto 69) Att: 55,827

Venezia 2 (Maniero 56, 67)
Reggina 0 Att: 8,435

Verona 2 (Aglietti 34, Adailton 36)
Cagliari 0 Att: 12,250

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roma	12	7	4	1	26	11	25
Lazio	12	7	4	1	26	13	25
Juventus	12	7	4	1	15	6	25
Inter	12	7	2	3	23	9	23
Parma	12	6	3	3	23	17	21
Milan	12	5	5	2	25	17	20
Bari	12	4	5	3	15	15	17
Fiorentina	12	4	5	3	14	14	17
Perugia	12	5	1	6	13	16	16
Udinese	12	4	3	5	15	19	15
Bologna	12	3	5	4	8	10	14
Torino	12	3	5	4	10	14	14
Lecce	12	4	2	6	14	23	14
Verona	12	3	2	7	7	17	11
Piacenza	12	2	4	6	9	14	10
Reggina	12	2	4	6	12	20	10
Venezia	12	2	3	7	9	16	9
Cagliari	12	0	5	7	11	24	5

NORWAY

PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY-OFF

Oct 27: Start 2 Stromsgodset 2.
Oct 31: Stromsgodset 0 Start 1.
Agg 3-2. Start promoted; Stromsgodset relegated.

POLAND

Nov 5: Gornik 0 Zaglebie 0.
Nov 6: Polonia 2 Petro Plock 0; Pogon 4 R Radzionkow 0; R Chorzow 3 Odra 1.
Nov 7: Groclin 1 Lech 2; Stomil 2 Widzew 2; Wisla 1 Legia 1; LKS 3 Amica 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R Chorzow	15	8	6	1	28	14	30
Polonia	15	8	4	3	23	17	28
Legia	15	6	8	1	30	17	26
Wisla	15	7	5	3	26	17	26
Pogon	15	6	6	3	23	19	24
Zaglebie	15	6	5	4	14	14	23
Amica	15	5	7	3	24	19	22
Halex	15	5	6	4	17	22	21
Gornik	15	4	7	4	26	19	19
Petro Plock	15	5	4	6	18	21	19
R Radzionkow	15	5	3	7	15	24	18
Odra	15	4	4	7	17	20	16
LKS	15	3	6	6	13	15	15
Widzew	15	3	6	6	21	26	15
Lech	15	2	5	8	18	28	11
Groclin	15	1	2	12	9	30	5

PORTUGAL

Sunday, November 7

Farense 1 (Marinescu pen 80)
Estrela Amadora 1 (Eric Gaucho 77)

Guimaraes 4 (Edmilson 10, 71, 79, Brandao pen 44)
Belenenses 2 (Rui Pataca 20, Seba 82)

Salgueiros 0
Alverca 2 (Caju 64, 90)

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Vidigal 84)
Campomaiorense 0

Uniao Leiria 0 Rio Ave 0

Vitoria Setubal 0
Gil Vicente 1 (Pedro Santos 84)

Monday, November 8

Benfica 2 (Nuno Gomes 12, Kandaurov 80)
Sporting Braga 1 (Toni 61)

Maritimo 2 (Albertino 22, Rui Oscar 85)
FC Porto 1 (Jardel 53)

Santa Clara 0
Boavista 1 (Whelliton 74)

Saturday, November 20

Boavista 1 (Whelliton pen 41)
Vitoria Setubal 0

FC Porto 2 (Capucho 4, Jardel 25)
Benfica 0

Sunday, November 21

Alverca 0
Santa Clara 1 (George 87)

Belenenses 0
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Acosta 33)

Campomaiorense 1 (Beke 32)
Maritimo 0

Gil Vicente 4 (Ricardo Nascimento pen 11, Carlitos 45, 89, Cuc 90)
Farense 0

Rio Ave 0
Estrela Amadora 1 (Eric Gaucho pen 5)

Sporting Braga 2 (Toni 54, Barroso 72)
Salgueiros 0

Uniao Leiria 1 (Duah 5)
Guimaraes 0

Friday, November 26

Maritimo 0
Belenenses 0

Saturday, November 27

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Acosta 51, 59)
Uniao Leiria 0

Sunday, November 28

Estrela Amadora 0
Gil Vicente 1 (Guga 55)

Guimaraes 2 (Jairson 69, Brandao 86)
Rio Ave 1 (Hugo Henrique 3)

Salgueiros 0
FC Porto 4 (Jardel 20, pen 52, 56, Drulovic 90)

Santa Clara 1 (Clayton 74)
Sporting Braga 2 (Odair 35, Silva 81)

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Carlos Manuel 33)
Alverca 0

Monday, November 29

Benfica 2 (Paulo Madeira 8, Maniche 70)
Campomaiorense 0

Farense 0
Boavista 2 (Gilmar 20, Emanuel 89)

Friday, December 3

FC Porto 1 (Jardel 63)
Santa Clara 0

EURO 2000 – THE DRAW

Group A

12.06.00.....Liege .....Germany-Romania
12.06.00.....Eindhoven .....Portugal-England
17.06.00.....Arnhem .....Romania-Portugal
17.06.00.....Charleroi .....England-Germany
20.06.00.....Charleroi .....England-Romania
20.06.00.....Rotterdam.....Portugal-Germany

Group B

10.06.00.....Brussels .....Belgium-Sweden
11.06.00.....Arnhem .....Turkey-Italy
14.06.00.....Brussels .....Italy-Belgium
15.06.00.....Eindhoven.....Sweden-Turkey
19.06.00.....Brussels .....Turkey-Belgium
19.06.00.....Eindhoven .....Italy-Sweden

Group C

13.06.00.....Rotterdam .....Spain-Norway
13.06.00.....Charleroi .....Slovenia-Yugoslavia
18.06.00.....Amsterdam.....Yugoslavia-Spain
18.06.00.....Liege .....Norway-Slovenia
21.06.00.....Bruges .....Slovenia-Spain
21.06.00.....Arnhem .....Yugoslavia-Norway

Group D

11.06.00.....Bruges .....France-Denmark
11.06.00.....Amsterdam .....Holland-Czech Rep
16.06.00.....Bruges ..... Czech Rep-France
16.06.00.....Rotterdam .....Denmark-Holland
21.06.00.....Amsterdam.....France-Holland
21.06.00.....Liege .....Denmark-Czech Rep

Quarter-finals

24.06.00.....Amsterdam .....A1 v B2 1
24.06.00.....Brussels.....B1 v A2 2
25.06.00.....Rotterdam.....D1 v C2 3
25.06.00.....Bruges .....C1 v D2 4

Semi-finals

28.06.00.....Brussels .....1 v 3
29.06.00.....Amsterdam .....2 v 4

Final

02.07.00.....Rotterdam .....

WORLD CUP 2002 DRAW

AFRICA

5 teams qualify

FIRST ROUND

Cape Verde Islands v Algeria;
Mauritania v Tunisia;
Benin v Senegal;
Guinea-Bissau v Togo;
Gambia v Morocco;
Lesotho v South Africa;
Swaziland v Angola;
Botswana v Zambia;
Madagascar v Gabon;
Sudan v Mozambique;
Equatorial Guinea v Congo;
Libya v Mali;
Rwanda v Ivory Coast;
Sao Tome e Principe v Sierra Leone;
Central African Republic v Zimbabwe;
Seychelles v Namibia;
Djibouti v DR Congo;
Somalia v Cameroon;
Mauritius v Egypt;
Eritrea v Nigeria;
Chad v Liberia;
Uganda v Guinea;
Ethiopia v Burkina Faso;
Malawi v Kenya;
Tanzania v Ghana
Winners qualify for second round

ASIA

2 or 3 qualify, plus hosts Japan and South Korea

FIRST ROUND

10 groups of four teams, played in a round-robin format. Group winners qualify for second round

Group 1

Oman, Syria, Laos, Philippines

Group 2

Iran, Tajikistan, Myanmar, Guam

Group 3

Qatar, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Palestine

Group 4

Kuwait, Singapore, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan

Group 5

Thailand, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Pakistan

Group 6

Iraq, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Macao

Group 7

Uzbekistan, Jordan, Turkmenistan, Taiwan

Group 8

United Arab Emirates, India, Yemen, Brunei

Group 9

China, Indonesia, Maldives, Cambodia

Group 10

Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Mongolia

EUROPE

13 or 14 teams qualify, plus holders France

Group 1

Yugoslavia, Russia, Switzerland, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Faroe Islands

Group 2

Holland, Portugal, Rep Ireland, Cyprus, Andorra, Estonia

Group 3

Czech Republic, Denmark, Bulgaria, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Malta

Group 4

Sweden, Turkey, Slovakia, Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Moldova

Group 5

Norway, Ukraine, Poland, Wales, Armenia, Belarus

Group 6

Belgium, Scotland, Croatia, Latvia, San Marino

Group 7

Spain, Austria, Israel, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Liechtenstein

Group 8

Romania, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Georgia

Group 9

Germany, England, Greece, Finland, Albania

Group winners qualify automatically. Nine group runners-up and third-place Asian team play off for five remaining places.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 teams qualify

FIRST ROUND

Group 1

Australia, Tonga, Fiji, American Samoa, Samoa

Group 2

New Zealand, Tahiti, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Cook Islands

Two group winners qualify for the second round.

SOUTH AMERICA

4 or 5 teams qualify

Round-robin league system. Top four teams qualify automatically. Fifth-placed team play off against Oceania qualifier

28.03.00 .....Uruguay-Bolivia
28.03.00 .....Colombia-Brazil
28.03.00 .....Peru-Paraguay
28.03.00 .....Argentina-Chile
28.03.00 .....Ecuador-Venezuela
25.04.00 .....Venezuela-Argentina
25.04.00 .....Brazil-Ecuador
25.04.00 .....Paraguay-Uruguay
25.04.00 .....Chile-Peru
25.04.00 .....Bolivia-Colombia
03.06.00 .....Peru-Brazil
03.06.00 .....Argentina-Bolivia
03.06.00 .....Paraguay-Ecuador
03.06.00 .....Uruguay-Chile
03.06.00 .....Colombia-Venezuela
28.06.00 .....Brazil-Uruguay
28.06.00 .....Colombia-Argentina
28.06.00 .....Venezuela-Bolivia
28.06.00 .....Chile-Paraguay
28.06.00 .....Ecuador-Peru
18.07.00 .....Paraguay-Brazil
18.07.00 .....Argentina-Ecuador
18.07.00 .....Bolivia-Chile
18.07.00 .....Peru-Colombia
18.07.00 .....Uruguay-Venezuela
25.07.00 .....Brazil-Argentina
25.07.00 .....Bolivia-Paraguay
25.07.00 .....Venezuela-Chile
25.07.00 .....Uruguay-Peru
25.07.00 .....Ecuador-Colombia
15.08.00 .....Colombia-Uruguay
15.08.00 .....Chile-Brazil
15.08.00 .....Ecuador-Bolivia
15.08.00 .....Argentina-Paraguay
15.08.00 .....Peru-Venezuela
02.09.00 .....Peru-Argentina
02.09.00 .....Brazil-Bolivia
02.09.00 .....Uruguay-Ecuador
02.09.00 .....Chile-Colombia
02.09.00 .....Paraguay-Venezuela
07.10.00 .....Argentina-Uruguay
07.10.00 .....Venezuela-Brazil
07.10.00 .....Colombia-Paraguay
07.10.00 .....Ecuador-Chile
07.10.00 .....Bolivia-Peru
14.11.00 .....Bolivia-Uruguay
14.11.00 .....Brazil-Colombia
14.11.00 .....Paraguay-Peru
14.11.00 .....Chile-Argentina
14.11.00 .....Venezuela-Ecuador
27.03.01 .....Argentina-Venezuela
27.03.01 .....Ecuador-Brazil
27.03.01 .....Uruguay-Paraguay
27.03.01 .....Peru-Chile
27.03.01 .....Colombia-Bolivia
24.04.01 .....Brazil-Peru
24.04.01 .....Bolivia-Argentina
24.04.01 .....Ecuador-Paraguay
24.04.01 .....Chile-Uruguay
24.04.01 .....Venezuela-Colombia
02.06.01 .....Uruguay-Brazil
02.06.01 .....Argentina-Colombia
02.06.01 .....Bolivia-Venezuela
02.06.01 .....Paraguay-Chile
02.06.01 .....Peru-Ecuador
14.08.01 .....Brazil-Paraguay
14.08.01 .....Ecuador-Argentina
14.08.01 .....Chile-Bolivia
14.08.01 .....Colombia-Peru
14.08.01 .....Venezuela-Uruguay
04.09.01 .....Argentina-Brazil
04.09.01 .....Paraguay-Bolivia
04.09.01 .....Chile-Venezuela
04.09.01 .....Peru-Uruguay
04.09.01 .....Colombia-Ecuador
06.10.01 .....Uruguay-Colombia
06.10.01 .....Brazil-Chile
06.10.01 .....Bolivia-Ecuador
06.10.01 .....Paraguay-Argentina
06.10.01 .....Venezuela-Peru
07.11.01 .....Argentina-Peru
07.11.01 .....Bolivia-Brazil
07.11.01 .....Ecuador-Uruguay
07.11.01 .....Colombia-Chile
07.11.01 .....Venezuela-Paraguay
13.11.01 .....Uruguay-Argentina
13.11.01 .....Brazil-Venezuela
13.11.01 .....Paraguay-Colombia
13.11.01 .....Chile-Ecuador
13.11.01 .....Peru-Bolivia

CONCACAF

3 teams qualify

PRELIMINARY PHASE

Central American Zone Group A

El Salvador, Belize, Guatemala

Central American Zone Group B

Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

Group winners qualify for the semi-final round. Group runners-up play off against the Round 3 losers of Group 2 and Group 3 of the Caribbean Zone.

Caribbean Zone First round

Pool 1: Cuba, Cayman Islands, St Lucia, Surinam, Aruba, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Grenada

Pool 2: St. Vincent, US Virgin Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, Turks and Caicos Islands, Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda

Pool 3: Trinidad & Tobago, Dutch Antilles, Dominican Republic, Montserrat, Dominica, Haiti, Anguilla, Bahamas

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

Group A

(Sao Paulo, Morumbi stadium)

05.01.00.....Real Madrid v Al Nassr (6.45pm)
05.01.00.....Corinthians v Raja Casablanca (9.15pm)
07.01.00.....Real Madrid v Corinthians (6.45pm)
07.01.00.....Raja Casablanca v Al Nassr (9.15pm)
10.01.00.....Real Madrid v Raja Casablanca (6.45pm)
10.01.00.....Al Nassr v Corinthians (9.15pm)

Group B

(Rio de Janeiro, Maracana stadium)

06.01.00.....Manchester United v Necaxa (6.15pm)
06.01.00.....Vasco da Gama v South Melbourne (8.45pm)
08.01.00.....Manchester United v Vasco da Gama (6.15pm)
08.01.00.....South Melbourne v Necaxa (8.45pm)
11.01.00.....Manchester United v South Melbourne (6.15pm)
11.01.00.....Necaxa v Vasco da Gama (8.45pm)

3rd place play-off

14.01.00.....Maracana (5pm)

Final

14.01.00.....Maracana (8pm)

Kick-offs are local time; for GMT add three hours

Saturday, December 4

Alverca 0
Farense 1 (Marinescu pen 56)

Belenenses 0
Benfica 0

Guimaraes 1 (Brandao 90)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Duscher 22, Evaldo og 76)

Sunday, December 5

Boavista 1 (Raul Oliveira og 55)
Estrela Amadora 2 (Eric Gaucho 29, Gaucho II 56)

Campomaiorense 0
Salgueiros 1 (Basilio 78)

Rio Ave 3 (Peu 22, Alercio 27, Gama 80)
Gil Vicente 1 (Petit pen 88)

Sporting Braga 3 (Toni 2, Odair pen 70, Dibo 80)
Vitoria Setubal 0

Uniao Leiria 0
Maritimo 1 (Toedtli 45)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	13	8	4	1	24	7	28
Benfica	13	8	3	2	19	8	27
Sporting Lisbon	13	8	3	2	20	11	27
Maritimo	13	7	3	3	17	9	24
Boavista	13	7	3	3	13	9	24
Gil Vicente	13	7	2	4	19	11	23
Guimaraes	13	6	3	4	21	16	21
Estrela Amadora	13	4	6	3	14	14	18
Alverca	13	5	2	6	13	15	17
Belenenses	13	4	5	4	14	12	17
Rio Ave	13	3	5	5	15	20	14
Santa Clara	13	3	4	6	15	18	13
Sporting Braga	13	4	1	8	17	21	13
Campomaiorense	13	4	1	8	10	19	13
Salgueiros	13	4	1	8	9	19	13
Farense	13	2	5	6	8	22	11
Uniao Leiria	13	2	4	7	9	15	10
Vitoria Setubal	13	2	3	8	11	22	9

PORTUGUESE CUP – 4TH RND

Nov 14: Benfica 1 Torres Novas 0; Campomaiorense 2 Benfica B 1; Canelas 0 Sporting Lisbon 1; Estrela Amadora 2 Camara L 0; Famalicao 1 Santa Clara 2; Gil Vicente 3 Leca 2; Portimonense 1 Rio Ave 4; Ribeira Brava 0 FC Porto 4; Salgueiros 1 Lusitania 0; Sporting Braga 2 Maritimo 1; Farense 3 Belenenses 1; Uniao Leiria 3 Anadia 0; Vitoria Setubal 2 Vilafranquense 1.
Nov 24: Guimaraes 1 Maia 0.

ROMANIA

Nov 3: Astra 1 National 1; Rapid 1 Ceahlaul 2; Bacau 0 Dinamo 3.
Nov 5: Otelul 1 Arges 2.
Nov 6: Rapid 4 Resita 0; Petrolul 1 Bacau 0; National 6 Farul 0; Brasov 0 U Craiova 1; Rocar 2 Astra 1; Extensiv 0 Ceahlaul 0.
Nov 7: Onesti 2 Dinamo 4.
Nov 10: Gloria 4 Steaua 0.
Nov 12: Farul 3 Onesti 1.
Nov 13: Steaua 5 Extensiv 2; Arges 2 Gloria 0; Astra 1 Brasov 1.
Nov 14: Dinamo 3 Otelul 2; U Craiova 2 Rapid 0; Bacau 1 Rocar 0; Ceahlaul 2 Petrolul 0; Resita 1 National 0.
Nov 19: U Craiova 2 National 0.
Nov 20: Otelul 0 Gloria 0; Resita 6 Onesti 1; Dinamo 4 Farul 0; Arges 2 Extensiv 0; Ceahlaul 2 Rocar 0; Bacau 1 Brasov 0; Steaua 1 Petrolul 4.
Nov 21: Astra 2 Rapid 3.
Nov 26: Brasov 3 Ceahlaul 1.
Nov 27: Petrolul 1 Arges 1; National 1 Astra 0; Farul 3 Resita 1; Gloria 1 Dinamo 0; Onesti 0 U Craiova 0; Extensiv 3 Otelul 0.
Nov 28: Rapid 2 Bacau 1.
Dec 3: Bacau 1 National 1.
Dec 4: Steaua 2 Brasov 2; Dinamo 2 Resita 1; U Craiova 3 Farul 0; Arges 3 Rocar 1; Gloria 1 Extensiv 0; Ceahlaul 0 Rapid 3; Astra 5 Onesti 0.
Dec 5: Otelul 3 Petrolul 2.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	20	17	2	1	58	15	53
Rapid	20	13	3	4	35	20	42
Ceahlaul	20	11	4	5	27	25	37
Arges	19	12	3	4	27	15	39
Gloria	20	10	2	8	28	24	32
Astra	20	9	3	8	31	24	30
Steaua	18	9	2	7	36	33	29
Bacau	20	8	5	7	21	24	29
U Craiova	20	8	4	8	25	19	28
Petrolul	20	7	4	9	24	31	25
Otelul	20	7	3	10	31	33	24
National	20	6	4	10	27	26	22
Farul	20	6	4	10	24	34	22
Rocar	19	7	0	12	24	31	21
Brasov	20	6	3	11	29	30	21
Onesti	20	6	3	11	24	44	21
Resita	20	4	5	11	24	45	17
Extensiv	20	4	2	14	15	37	14

RUSSIA

Nov 8: Spartak 3 Alaniya 0; Chernomorets 1 Shinnik 1; Uralan 0 Zenit 0; Kryliya Sovetov 1 CSKA 1; Dinamo 2 Rotor 1; Lokomotiv M 3 Rostselmash 0; Zhemchuzhina 1 Torpedo 1; Saturn 1 Lokomotiv NN 1.

RUSSIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	30	22	6	2	75	24	72
Lokomotiv	30	20	5	5	62	30	65
CSKA	30	15	10	5	56	29	55
Torpedo	30	13	11	6	38	33	50
Dinamo	30	12	8	10	44	41	44
Alaniya	30	12	7	11	54	45	43
Rostselmash	30	11	8	11	32	37	41
Zenit	30	9	12	9	36	34	39
Uralan	30	10	6	14	27	34	36
Saturn	30	8	10	12	30	38	34
Lokomotiv NN	30	9	6	15	33	48	33
Kryliya Sovetov	30	8	7	15	39	49	31
Rotor	30	7	10	13	36	51	31
Chernomorets	30	7	8	15	30	49	29
Zhemchuzhina	30	5	11	14	29	55	26
Shinnik	30	5	9	16	21	45	24

Zhemchuzhina and Shinnik are relegated

SCOTLAND

Saturday, November 6

Dundee Utd 3 (Dodds 48, 86, Paterson 55)
Aberdeen 1 (Solberg pen 90) Att: 8,170

Hearts 1 (McSwegan 8)
Motherwell 1 (Spencer 83) Att: 12,514

Kilmarnock 0
Hibernian 2 (Miller 70, 87) Att: 8,735

St Johnstone 0
Dundee 1 (Annand 45) Att: 4,917

Sunday, November 7

Rangers 4 (Johansson 19, Albertz pen 45, Amoruso 49, Amato 66)
Celtic 2 (Berkovic 21, 42) Att: 50,026

Saturday, November 20

Dundee 0
Motherwell 1 (McCulloch 45) Att: 4,340

Hearts 1 (Cameron 3)
Celtic 2 (Wright 71, Moravcik 88) Att: 17,184

Kilmarnock 1 (Cocard pen 49)
Dundee Utd 1 (Hannah 65) Att: 7,012

Rangers 2 (Johansson 32, Albertz 46)
Hibernian 0 Att: 49,323

St Johnstone 1 (Jones 74)
Aberdeen 1 (Dow 70) Att: 4,600

Tuesday, November 23

Motherwell 2 (McCulloch 24, Nevin 90)
Hearts 1 (McSwegan 46) Att: 7,858

Wednesday, November 24

Hibernian 0
St Johnstone 1 (Jones 17) Att: 9,434

Saturday, November 27

Dundee Utd 1 (Telesnikov 17)
St Johnstone 0 Att: 6,367

Hibernian 2 (McGinlay 25, Paatelainen 35)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 11,628

Kilmarnock 2 (Mahood 73, Reilly 90)
Hearts 2 (McSwegan 7, Ritchie 22) Att: 8,376

Sunday, November 28

Motherwell 3 (Brannan 9, Townsley 44, Goodman 49)
Celtic 2 (Berkovic 20, Viduka pen 24) Att: 9,740

Rangers 1 (Wallace 70)
Dundee 2 (Ireland 14, Rae 90) Att: 47,154

Saturday, December 4

Celtic 4 (Viduka pen 18, Moravcik 29, 58, Wieghorst 84)
Hibernian 0 Att: 60,092

Sunday, December 5

Hearts 3 (Juanjo 4, Jackson 69, Adam 88)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 10,598

Wednesday, December 8

Aberdeen 3 (Jess 9, Stavrum 63, Guntveit 65)
Hearts 1 (Severin 30) Att: 10,274

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	13	11	1	1	37	12	34
Celtic	15	11	0	4	42	14	33
Dundee Utd	16	8	3	5	22	22	27
Motherwell	15	7	5	3	25	23	26
Hearts	16	5	5	6	26	24	20
Hibernian	17	5	5	7	25	31	20
Dundee	15	6	0	9	20	26	18
St Johnstone	16	4	4	8	15	21	16
Kilmarnock	15	2	6	7	15	23	12
Aberdeen	16	2	3	11	17	48	9

SPAIN

Saturday, November 6

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Ferron 22, Canabal 28)
Real Madrid 3 (Morientes 46, Hierro pen 62, Raul 84) Att: 14,500

Sunday, November 7

Atletico Madrid 2 (Baraja 27, Hasselbaink 44)
Numancia 2 (Castano 58, Nagore 90) Att: 40,000

Barcelona 1 (Bogarde 29)
Malaga 2 (Agostinho 9, Valcarce 13) Att: 70,000

Celta Vigo 5 (Gustavo Lopez 18, Turdo 23, 58, Mostovoi 26, Karpin 70)
Betis Sevilla 1 (Alfonso 2) Att: 21,000

Mallorca 1 (Diego Tristan 50)
Valencia 0 Att: 19,600

Oviedo 0
La Coruna 1 (Djalminha pen 61) Att: 13,000

Racing Santander 2 (Arzeno 26, Salva 90)
Espanyol 2 (De Lucas pen 15, Arteaga 73) Att: 14,000

Real Sociedad 3 (De Pedro 32, Sa Pinto 41, De Paula 48)
Valladolid 0 Att: 27,000

Sevilla 0
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 35,000

Zaragoza 2 (Milosevic 3, 59)
Alaves 1 (Kodro 76) Att: 18,000

Saturday, November 20

Athletic Bilbao 4 (J Etxeberria 14, Guerrero 21, Carlos Garcia 46, Ezquerro pen 57)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Hasselbaink pen 26, Paunovic 76) Att: 30,000

Valencia 3 (Claudio Lopez 31, Ilie 36, Gerard 90)
Barcelona 1 (Zenden 44) Att: 50,000

Sunday, November 21

Betis Sevilla 2 (Finidi 23, pen 54)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 45,000

Espanyol 1 (Roger 59)
Mallorca 2 (Stankovic 23, Biagini 25) Att: 10,800

La Coruna 5 (Djalminha 38, Pauleta 39, 80, pen 90, Romero 67)
Sevilla 2 (Moya 36, Tsartas pen 84) Att: 18,000

Malaga 4 (Catanha 9, 42, 60, Movilla 59)
Oviedo 0 Att: 26,000

Numancia 3 (Ruben Navarro 60, Morales 80, Castano 90)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Canabal 52) Att: 8,500

Real Madrid 1 (Savio 67)
Real Sociedad 1 (Pikabea 77) Att: 70,000

Valladolid 1 (Rodrigo 55)
Celta Vigo 3 (Djorovic 28, Karpin 81, McCarthy 87) Att: 12,000

Saturday, November 27

Sevilla 0
Malaga 0 Att: 30,000

Sunday, November 28

Atletico Madrid 1 (Baraja 55)
La Coruna 3 (Makaay 24, 28, Victor 43) Att: 40,000

Celta Vigo 1 (Celades 38)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 28,000

Espanyol 2 (Velamazan 27, Roger 88)
Alaves 3 (Magno 41, Contra 44, Javi Moreno 81) Att: 15,000

Mallorca 3 (Diego Tristan 33, pen 83, Stankovic 38)
Barcelona 2 (Kluivert 2, 64) Att: 22,000

Oviedo 0
Valencia 0 Att: 11,120

Racing Santander 1 (Vivar Dorado 31)
Betis Sevilla 1 (Karhan 47) Att: 15,000

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Estibariz 81)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Guerrero 34, Larrazabal pen 38) Att: 13,000

Real Sociedad 2 (De Paula 65, Llorente 76)
Numancia 1 (Castano pen 18) Att: 20,000

Zaragoza 1 (Milosevic 10)
Valladolid 1 (Victor 77) Att: 18,000

Saturday, December 4

Athletic Bilbao 1 (J Etxeberria 27)
Real Sociedad 1 (Aramburu 66) Att: 40,000

Barcelona 3 (Cocu 16, 26, Kluivert 27)
Oviedo 2 (Losada 73, Gonzalez 90) Att: 60,000

Real Madrid 1 (Raul 53)
Zaragoza 5 (Milosevic 29, 68, Juanele 39, 44, Garitano 55)

Valencia 2 (Sanchez 6, Claudio Lopez 69)
Sevilla 0 Att: 30,000

Sunday, December 5

Alaves 2 (Kodro 14, Javi Moreno 86)
Mallorca 2 (Diego Tristan 55, 64) Att: 17,000

Betis Sevilla 2 (Alfonso 15, 65)
Espanyol 5 (Tamudo 68, Velamazan 79, Galca pen 86, 90, De Lucas pen 89) Att: 35,000

La Coruna 3 (Makaay 6, Turu Flores 8, Pauleta 14)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bolo 43, Helder 49) Att: 25,000

Malaga 2 (Luque 23, 66)
Atletico Madrid 3 (Hasselbaink 5, 43, Jose Mari 49) Att: 35,000

Numancia 3 (Caceres og 36, Ruben Navarro 52, Octavio 54)
Celta Vigo 1 (Mostovoi 64) Att: 9,500

Valladolid 1 (Rodrigo 24)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 14,000

Wednesday, December 8

Alaves 2 (Karmona 9, Salinas pen 88)
Racing Santander 1 (Salva 50) Att: 17,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Coruna	14	9	3	2	30	17	30
Celta Vigo	14	9	0	5	21	15	27
Zaragoza	14	7	4	3	25	12	25
Barcelona	14	7	2	5	31	21	23
Rayo Vallecano	14	7	1	6	20	20	22
Mallorca	14	6	3	5	21	20	21
Alaves	14	6	3	5	17	17	21
Athletic Bilbao	14	5	5	4	20	21	20
Betis Sevilla	14	6	2	6	15	24	20
Numancia	14	5	4	5	20	23	19
Valencia	14	5	3	6	18	14	18
Espanyol	14	5	3	6	23	23	18
Racing Santander	14	4	5	5	22	22	17
Real Sociedad	14	4	5	5	19	20	17
Atletico Madrid	14	5	2	7	22	27	17
Malaga	14	4	4	6	23	23	16
Real Madrid	14	3	7	4	23	26	16
Valladolid	14	4	3	7	13	21	15
Oviedo	14	3	4	7	11	21	13
Sevilla	14	1	7	6	13	20	10

SPANISH CUP – 2ND RND, 1ST LEGS

Nov 10: Alzira 0 Malaga 0; Bermeo 0 Betis Sevilla 0; Compostela 4 Numancia 2; Cordoba 1 Espanyol 1; Extremadura 1 Alaves 1; Hercules 0 Racing Santander 0; Logrones 2 Real Sociedad 1; Lorca 0 Oviedo 1; Melilla 2 Athletic Bilbao 2; Osasuna 1 Sevilla 0; Real Union 1 Valladolid 1; Recreativo 0 Zaragoza 0; Salamanca 2 Rayo Vallecano 2.

SWEDEN

PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY-OFFS

Nov 3: Assyriska 1 Orebro 1; GAIS 2 Kalmar 1.
Nov 6: Orebro 2 Assyriska 1 *Aet; Orebro won 3-2 on agg and stay in the top division;*
Kalmar 1 GAIS 1 *GAIS won 3-2 on agg and are promoted; Kalmar are relegated.*

SWITZERLAND

Nov 6: Neuchatel Xamax 2 Delemont 0; Yverdon 0 St Gallen 1.
Nov 7: Aarau 1 Lucerne 0; Lugano 1 Grasshopper 5; Zurich 2 Lausanne 2; Basle 0 Servette 0.
Nov 20: Lausanne 3 Aarau 1; Servette 2 Neuchatel Xamax 4.
Nov 21: Delemont 1 Yverdon 3; Lucerne 3 Basle 0; Zurich 2 Lugano 1.
Nov 27: Basle 3 Lausanne 3; Neuchatel Xamax 3 Lucerne 1.
Nov 28: Lugano 1 St Gallen 1; Grasshopper 4 Delemont 0; Yverdon 2 Servette 1; Aarau 1 Zurich 1.
Dec 1: St Gallen 2 Grasshopper 1.
Dec 5: Aarau 0 Lugano 2; Delemont 0 St Gallen 3; Lausanne 0 Neuchatel Xamax 2; Lucerne 4 Yverdon 1; Servette 2 Grasshopper 1; Zurich 0 Basle 1.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Gallen	21	12	6	3	40	25	42
Lausanne	21	9	8	4	35	25	35
Basle	21	8	10	3	29	20	34
Grasshopper	21	8	7	6	38	25	31
Yverdon	21	7	8	6	28	25	29
Lucerne	21	8	4	9	28	27	28
Servette	21	8	4	9	32	34	28
Zurich	21	6	8	7	21	26	26
Aarau	21	7	5	9	29	40	26
Neuchatel Xamax	21	6	7	8	31	33	25
Lugano	21	5	6	10	25	32	21
Delemont	21	3	5	13	22	47	14

TURKEY

Nov 19: Denizlispor 1 Gaziantepspor 0.
Nov 20: Goztepe 1 Antalyaspor 2.
Nov 21: Besiktas 1 Trabzonspor 1; Erzurum 4 Adanaspor 1; Genclerbirligi 1 Ankaragucu 2; Altay 0 Kocaelispor 1; Vanspor 1 Istanbulspor 1; Samsunspor 1 Bursaspor 0.
Nov 26: Ankaragucu 2 Besiktas 3.
Nov 27: Adanaspor 1 Genclerbirligi 2; Antalyaspor 2 Fenerbahce 3.
Nov 28: Gaziantepspor 1 Vanspor 3; Istanbulspor 4 Kocaelispor 1; Altay 2 Samsunspor 1; Bursaspor 1 Goztepe 2; Trabzonspor 1 Denizlispor 1; Galatasaray 4 Erzurum 1.
Dec 3: Genclerbirligi 1 Galatasaray 1.
Dec 4: Besiktas 0 Adanaspor 1.
Dec 5: Erzurum 4 Antalyaspor 0; Gaziantepspor 1 Kocaelispor 0; Samsunspor 4 Goztepe 0; Altay 0 Istanbulspor 0; Vanspor 2 Trabzonspor 2; Denizlispor 1 Ankaragucu 1; Fenerbahce 2 Bursaspor 2.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	10	7	2	1	22	8	23
Denizlispor	11	6	4	1	17	10	22
Gaziantepspor	11	6	2	3	15	8	21
Besiktas	11	5	4	2	21	8	19
Fenerbahce	10	5	4	1	20	11	19
Altay	11	4	4	3	15	10	16
Trabzonspor	11	4	4	3	16	12	16
Samsunspor	11	5	1	5	16	14	16
Istanbulspor	11	4	4	3	14	13	16
Genclerbirligi	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
Erzurum	11	4	2	5	16	20	14
Antalyaspor	11	4	2	5	13	20	14
Goztepe	11	3	3	5	9	14	12
Vanspor	11	2	4	5	12	19	10
Adanaspor	11	2	3	6	13	20	9
Kocaelispor	11	2	3	6	12	23	9
Ankaragucu	11	2	3	6	10	21	9
Bursaspor	11	1	4	6	9	16	7

UKRAINE

Nov 2: Shakhtar 1 Chornomorets 0.
Nov 7: CSKA 0 Dynamo 3; Metalist 5 Nyva 2; Karpaty 3 Metalurh M 1; Chornomorets 0 Prykarpattya 0; Metalurh D 2 Shakhtar 3; Zirka 1 Metalurh Z 1; Tavriya 0 Vorskla 3; Dnipro 1 Kryvbas 0.
Nov 20: Metalist 1 Kryvbas 1.
Nov 21: Dynamo 2 Metalurh Z 0.
Nov 29: Shakhtar 0 Dynamo 0.
Dec 3: Prykarpattya 0 Dynamo 6.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	15	13	2	0	37	6	41
Kryvbas	15	9	4	2	26	14	31
Shakhtar	15	9	2	4	21	8	29
Vorskla	15	8	3	4	31	18	27
Karpaty	15	8	0	7	27	21	24
Metalist	15	7	3	5	21	19	24
Metalurh Z	15	6	5	4	19	16	23
Metalurh D	15	5	5	5	20	18	20
Metalurh M	15	6	1	8	26	24	19
CSKA	15	4	6	5	17	16	18
Tavriya	15	4	4	7	19	24	16
Dnipro	15	4	4	7	13	29	16
Prykarpattya	15	2	6	7	11	23	12
Chornomorets	15	3	3	9	7	27	12
Nyva	15	2	5	8	20	32	11
Zirka	15	0	7	8	8	28	7

YUGOSLAVIA

Nov 3: Zeleznik 0 Partizan 1; Red Star 1 Cukaricki 0; Zemun 1 Sutjeska 1; Mogren 1 Hajduk K 0; Rad 1 Spartak 0; Sartid 1 Vojvodina 0; OFK 1 Radnicki K 1; Milicionar 0 Proleter 0; Borac 0 Hajduk B 1; Buducnost 1 Radnicki N 0.
Nov 5: Partizan 4 Zemun 1.
Nov 6: Spartak 1 OFK 2; Sutjeska 1 Buducnost 0; Cukaricki 0 Zeleznik 0; Hajduk B 0 Red Star 3; Proleter 1 Borac 1; Vojvodina 0 Milicionar 1; Hajduk K 0 Sartid 0; Obilic 2 Mogren 0; Radnicki N 3 Rad 0.
Nov 10: Vojvodina 3 Mogren 0.
Nov 20: Sartid 2 Obilic 3; Milicionar 1 Hajduk K 0; Borac 2 Vojvodina 3; Red Star 4 Proleter 0; Zeleznik 3 Hajduk B 1; Rad 2 Sutjeska 1; OFK 1 Radnicki N 0; Radnicki K 3 Spartak 1; Buducnost 1 Partizan 4.
Nov 21: Zemun 0 Cukaricki 1.
Nov 27: Sutjeska 3 OFK 2; Hajduk B 2 Zemun 1; Proleter 0 Zeleznik 0; Vojvodina 1 Red Star 2; Hajduk K 4 Borac 0; Obilic 1 Milicionar 0; Mogren 1 Sartid 0; Partizan 1 Rad 0; Radnicki N 0 Radnicki K 0.
Dec 1: Borac 0 Obilic 2; Milicionar 5 Mogren 0; Buducnost 2 Hajduk B 0; Red Star 2 Hajduk K 0; Zeleznik 1 Vojvodina 0; Zemun 2 Proleter 0; Rad 2 Cukaricki 0; OFK 2 Partizan 2; Radnicki K 3 Sutjeska 0; Spartak 1 Radnicki N 1.
Dec 4: Obilic 1 Red Star 1; Sutjeska 1 Spartak 0; Partizan 4 Radnicki K 0; Cukaricki 3 OFK 3; Hadjuk B 2 Rad 2; Proleter 1 Buducnost 0; Vojvodina 3 Zemun 3; Hajduk K 1 Zeleznik 0; Mogren 3 Borac 1; Sartid 0 Milicionar 2.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	17	14	2	1	36	13	44
Obilic	17	14	2	1	33	12	44
Red Star	17	11	5	1	38	10	38
Milicionar	18	8	4	6	23	18	28
Sutjeska	18	8	3	7	26	29	27
Zeleznik	17	7	5	5	23	16	26
Rad	17	7	5	5	25	20	26
Radnicki K	17	7	4	6	17	20	25
Vojvodina	17	7	2	8	24	19	23
Hajduk K	17	6	4	7	16	15	22
Buducnost	16	6	3	7	16	19	21
OFK	17	5	6	6	24	28	21
Zemun	17	6	3	8	24	32	21
Hajduk B	17	6	2	9	28	34	20
Cukaricki	16	5	4	7	16	19	19
Mogren	17	5	4	8	16	28	19
Proleter	17	4	6	7	13	19	18
Radnicki N	17	5	2	10	19	25	17
Sartid	17	4	4	9	17	25	16
Spartak	17	3	5	9	10	25	14
Borac	18	2	3	13	20	38	9
Pristina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOUTH AMERICA

MERCOSUR CUP

QUARTER-FINALS – 1ST LEG

Nov 2 - Avellaneda
Independiente (Arg) 1 (Calderon 77)
Flamengo (Bra) 1 (Fabio Bahiano 60)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Par)

2ND LEGS

Oct 29 - Belo Horizonte
Cruzeiro (Bra) 2 (Muller 45, Valdo 51)
Palmeiras (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 62,000. **Ref:** Travassos (Bra)
Palmeiras 7-5 on agg

Nov 5 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo 4 (Leandro Silva 15, 56, Fabio Bahiano 20, Romario 24)
Independiente 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Gallesio (Uru)
Flamengo 5-1 on agg

SEMI-FINAL – 1ST LEG

Nov 18 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo (Arg) 1 (Cordoba pen 56)
Palmeiras 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Sanchez (Chl)

MERCONORTE CUP

Group A

Nov 10 - Medellin
Atletico Nacional (Col) 0
Universitario (Per) 0
Ref: Solorzano (Ven)

Nov 11 - Quito
El Nacional (Ecu) 2
America (Col) 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	6	4	2	0	13	8	14
El Nacional	6	2	1	3	10	14	7
At Nacional	6	1	3	2	11	9	6
Universitario	6	1	2	3	7	10	5

Group B

Oct 28 - Lima
Alianza Lima (Per) 2 (Saenz 68, 77)
Millonarios (Col) 1 (Vidales 23)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Carpio (Ecu)

Nov 17 - Bogota
Millonarios 1 (D Cerquera)
Barcelona (Ecu) 2 (J Baldivieso, R Noriega)

Nov 18 - Lima
Alianza Lima 2 (H Quinteros, E Septembrino pen)
The Strongest (Bol) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Barcelona	6	2	3	1	9	5	9
Millonarios	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
The Strongest	6	1	1	4	7	15	4

Group C

Nov 3 - Lima
Sporting Cristal (Per) 0
Emelec (Ecu) 1 (Sanchez 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Paneso (Col)

Nov 4 - Caracas
Caracas (Ven) 0
Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 1 (Salazar 39)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Mallorga (Per)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep Santa Fe	5	4	1	0	9	1	13
Caracas	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Emelec	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Sporting Cristal	5	0	1	4	5	12	1

Group winners and second-placed side with the best record qualify for semi-finals

LIBERTADORES CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Oct 21 - Caracas
Ital-Chacao (Ven) 3 (Castellin 68, 75, Turdo 77)
Atlas (Mex) 3 (Castillo 36, Osorno 51, 70)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Cervantes (Col)

Oct 27 - Caracas
Ital-Chacao 0
Deportivo Tachira (Ven) 0
Ref: Solorzano (Ven)

Oct 27 - Guadalajara
Atlas 6 (Martinez og 39, Castillo 50, 65, Zepeda 54, Andrade 60, Torres 71)
America (Mex) 3 (Blanco 24, 74, Torres 71)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ramos (Mex)

Nov 9 - Mexico City
America 6 (De Faria 39, Pardo 41, 53, Estay 50, A Sanchez 58, Berti 71)
Deportivo Tachira 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000

Nov 11 - Guadalajara
Atlas 3 (J Rodriguez pen 18, pen 65, D Osorno 90)
Deportivo Tachira 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Madorran (Arg)

Nov 16 - Mexico City
America 1 (Terrazas 30)
Ital-Chacao 1 (Castellin 35)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)

Nov 18 - Guadalajara
Atlas 2 (M Zepeda, D Cocca)
Ital-Chacao 2 (C Casseres 2)

PRELIMINARY ROUND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	6	2	3	1	16	12	9
America	6	2	2	2	13	9	8
Ital-Chacao	6	1	5	0	9	7	8
Dep Tachira	6	1	2	3	3	13	5

Top two qualified for first round of 2000 Libertadores Cup

CONMEBOL CUP

SECOND ROUND – 1ST LEGS

Nov 3: Talleres Cordoba (Arg) 1 Parana (Bra) 0.
Nov 4: Estudiantes (Ven) 0 Alagoano (Bra) 0; Sport Boys (Per) 1 Sao Raimondo (Bra) 1.
Dep Concepcion (Chl) bye.

2ND LEGS

Nov 10: Sao Raimondo 4 Sport Boys 0 *Sao Raimondo 5-1 on agg*; Parana 1 Talleres Cordoba 0 *Agg 1-1. Talleres 3-1 on pens*; Alagoano 3 Estudiantes 1 *Alagoano 3-1 on agg.*

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEGS

Nov 17: Sao Raimundo 1 Alagoano 0; Talleres Cordoba 2 Dep Concepcion 1.

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

October 29-31

Argentinos Juniors 2 (Bennett 25, 53)
Talleres Cordoba 4 (Marzo 40, 76, Maidana 70, Oliva 73)

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Sosa 79)
Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Ascencio 69)

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Baggio 41)
Instituto Cordoba 1 (F Castro 38)

Estudiantes 3 (J Brown pen 12, Farias 22, Agoglia 28)
San Lorenzo 2 (Romeo 19, Romagnoli og 88)

Gimnasia J 1 (Romano 89)
Union Santa Fe 3 (Silvera 10, 77, Cabrol 90)

Independiente 1 (Marioni pen 12)
Chacarita Juniors 0

Lanus 2 (Klimowicz 19, Soto 76)
Racing Club 3 (Canobbio 31, 66, Delgado pen 45)

River Plate 2 (Coudet 76, Aimar 90)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Rosario Central 1 (Maceratesi 59)
Boca Juniors 3 (Palermo 19, Gustavo Barros Schelotto 76, Alfaro Moreno og 81)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Chilavert pen)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Gatti 87)

November 5-8

Boca Juniors 2 (Cagna 8, Riquelme 20)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Mateo 55)

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Muller 2, R Capria 64)
Lanus 0

Ferro Carril Oeste 0
Independiente 2 (Guerrero 9, Calderon 30)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Duena 29, Messera 47)
Gimnasia J 0

Instituto Cordoba 2 (Jimenez pen 51, Manfredi 64)
Estudiantes 2 (Piersimone 26, Clementz 66)

Racing Club 3 (Ubeda 41, Peralta 71, Estevez 74)
Argentinos Juniors 3 (Schiavi 9, Plaza 43, Bennett 64)

Rosario Central 1 (Moreno y Fabianesi 62)
Colon Santa Fe 0

San Lorenzo 1 (Romeo 86)
Belgrano Cordoba 0

Talleres Cordoba 3 (Gigena pen 42, Astudillo 44, Lillo 53)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Bassedas 64, Camps 80)

Union Santa Fe 1 (Cabrol 70)
River Plate 2 (Cardenas og 35, Saviola 48)

November 12-15

Argentinos Juniors 0
Chacarita Juniors 2 (A Rodriguez 13, Schiavi pen 49)

Belgrano Cordoba 4 (Medina 21, 23, Lujambio 67, 76)
Instituto Cordoba 1 (Jimenez pen 72)

Estudiantes 1 (Farias 83)
Rosario Central 2 (Cuberas 51, Maceratesi 60)

Gimnasia J 1 (Garnier 85)
Talleres Cordoba 4 (Pino 49, 83, Oliva 57, Astudillo 65)

Independiente 0
San Lorenzo 3 (I Cordoba pen 11, Bevacqua 89, Filomeno 90)

Lanus 0
Ferro Carril Oeste 2 (Chaparro 66, Comba 90)

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Vojvoda 67)
Union Santa Fe 1 (Cabrol 80)

River Plate 2 (Saviola 33, 77)
Gimnasia LP 0

Union Santa Fe 1 (Enria 45)
Boca Juniors 2 (Palermo 24, Gimenez 87)

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Bardaro 1, Morigi 22)
Racing Club 1 (Estevez 8)

November 19-22

Boca Juniors 2 (Samuel 6, Guillermo Barros Schelotto pen 78)
Union Santa Fe 0

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Enria 64)
Estudiantes 0

Ferro Carril Oeste 0
Argentinos Juniors 0

Gimnasia LP 3 (D Alonso 30, 80, San Esteban 61)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Instituto Cordoba 2 (Jimenez 12, Bujan 66)
Independiente 1 (O Sanchez pen 37)

Racing Club 1 (Monserrat 68)
Gimnasia J 0

Rosario Central 2 (Pizzi 41, 85)
Belgrano Cordoba 0

San Lorenzo 0
Lanus 1 (Klimowicz 22)

Talleres Cordoba 1 (Gigana 32)
River Plate 4 (Aimar 2, Saviola 64, G Pereyra 69, 73)

ARGENTINA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	15	11	3	1	34	14	36
Boca Juniors	15	10	3	2	28	12	33
San Lorenzo	15	9	3	3	26	13	30
Rosario Central	14	9	1	4	26	15	28
Talleres Cordoba	15	8	3	4	30	21	27
Velez Sarsfield	14	7	5	2	20	10	26
Racing Club	15	6	7	2	20	16	25
Chacarita Juniors	14	6	4	4	27	18	22
Gimnasia LP	15	4	8	3	20	16	20
Lanus	15	6	2	7	17	23	20
Independiente	15	4	6	5	14	17	18
Belgrano Cordoba	15	4	5	6	18	24	17
Argentinos Juniors	15	3	7	5	17	19	16
Colon Santa Fe	15	4	4	7	17	22	16
Instituto Cordoba	14	3	6	5	17	24	15
Union Santa Fe	15	4	3	8	14	21	15
Estudiantes	15	4	3	8	19	27	15
Newell's Old Boys	15	2	5	8	15	22	11
Ferro Carril Oeste	15	1	5	9	8	28	8
Gimnasia J	15	1	1	13	10	35	4

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAY-OFFS

Nov 7: Blooming 3 Union Central 0; Bolivar 0 The Strongest 0; Real Potosi 0 Independiente 0.
Nov 14: Independiente 1 Bolivar 4; The Strongest 3 Blooming 1; Union Central 1 Real Potosi 0.
Nov 21: Independiente 1 Blooming 2; Real Potosi 1 Bolivar 0; The Strongest 3 Union Central 1.
Nov 24: Blooming 4 Real Potosi 0; The Strongest 2 Independiente 1; Union Central 0 Bolivar 1.
Nov 28: Bolivar 3 Blooming 0; Independiente 2 Union Central 5; Real Potosi 1 The Strongest 2.
Dec 3: Union Central 1 Blooming 0.
Dec 4: Independiente 3 Real Potosi 1; The Strongest 1 Bolivar 0.

PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Strongest	8	6	1	1	14	7	19
Bolivar	9	5	1	3	13	4	16
Blooming	9	5	0	4	16	12	15
Union Central	9	5	0	4	12	14	15
Real Potosi	9	2	1	6	7	15	7
Independiente	8	1	1	6	10	20	4

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 27: Parana 4 Atletico MG 1.
Nov 3: Gremio 0 Corinthians 3; Cruzeiro 2 Vasco da Gama 1; Sao Paulo 1 Ponte Preta 0; Palmeiras 0 Guarani 0.
Nov 4: Parana 1 Internacional 0.
Nov 6: Botafogo SP 2 Atletico PR 1; Guarani 4 Atletico MG 0; Palmeiras 6 Botafogo RJ 0.
Nov 7: Corinthians 1 Ponte Preta 2; Flamengo 0 Santos 1; Cruzeiro 5 Parana 2; Gama 2 Portuguesa 1; Sport Recife 1 Vitoria 1; Coritiba 1 Juventude 1.
Nov 10: Juventude 3 Flamengo 1; Botafogo RJ 1 Guarani 0; Vasco da Gama 1 Botafogo SP 1; Ponte Preta 0 Gama 0; Internacional 1 Palmeiras 0; Corinthians 3 Coritiba 2; Vitoria 0 Sao Paulo 3; Portuguesa 2 Parana 2; Santos 3 Cruzeiro 3; Atletico PR 3 Sport Recife 1; Atletico MG 2 Gremio 0.

BRAZIL – FIRST PHASE FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	21	14	2	5	49	31	44
Cruzeiro	21	12	6	3	46	32	42
Vasco da Gama	21	10	6	5	33	23	36
Ponte Preta	21	10	5	6	23	16	35
Sao Paulo	21	11	1	9	35	24	34
Vitoria	21	10	4	7	31	33	34
Atletico MG	21	10	3	8	39	30	33
Guarani	21	10	3	8	31	22	33
Atletico PR	21	9	4	8	36	31	31
Palmeiras	21	8	7	6	36	23	31
Santos	21	8	6	7	25	26	30
Flamengo	21	9	2	10	30	33	29
Coritiba	21	7	8	6	31	29	29
Botafogo RJ	21	8	2	11	23	37	26
Gama	21	7	5	9	24	29	26
Internacional	21	7	3	11	18	26	24
Parana	21	6	6	9	23	29	24
Gremio	21	6	4	11	24	43	22
Juventude	21	5	7	9	18	32	22
Botafogo SP	21	5	6	10	27	38	21
Portuguesa	21	4	6	11	27	31	18
Sport Recife	21	3	8	10	14	25	17

Top eight qualified for play-offs. Botafogo SP, Juventude, Parana and Gama are relegated. Relegation decided by weighted points average over the past two seasons

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS – QUARTER-FINALS

(*best of three legs*)
Nov 14: Guarani 0 Corinthians 0; Atletico MG 4 Cruzeiro 2; Vitoria 5 Vasco da Gama 4; Sao Paulo 3 Ponte Preta 2.
Nov 21: Corinthians 2 Guarani 0; Cruzeiro 2 Atletico MG 3; Vasco da Gama 2 Vitoria 2; Ponte Preta 2 Sao Paulo 1.
Nov 24: Corinthians 1 Guarani 1; Vasco da Gama 1 Vitoria 1; Ponte Preta 2 Sao Paulo 3.

SEMI-FINALS

(*best of three legs*)
Nov 28: Sao Paulo 2 Corinthians 3; Atletico MG 3 Vitoria 0.
Dec 5: Corinthians 2 Sao Paulo 1; Vitoria 2 Atletico MG 1.
Dec 8: Vitoria 0 Atletico MG 3.

CHILE

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Nov 2: U Catolica 1 Santiago Morning 1.
Nov 3: Audax Italiano 1 Palestino 1; U de Chile 1 Cobreloa 3; Huachipato 3 Colo Colo 0.
Nov 6: Colo Colo 0 U de Chile 1; Cobreloa 2 U Catolica 1.
Nov 7: Palestino 3 Huachipato 2; Santiago Morning 2 Audax Italiano 2.
Nov 13: Santiago Morning 2 Huachipato 2; Cobreloa 1 Audax Italiano 0.
Nov 14: Palestino 1 Colo Colo 1; U de Chile 3 U Catolica 2.
Nov 17: Audax Italiano 0 U de Chile 2; Colo Colo 0 U Catolica 1.
Nov 18: Huachipato 1 Cobreloa 1; Palestino 2 Santiago Morning 4.
Nov 20-22: Santiago Morning 0 Colo Colo 2; Cobreloa 7 Palestino 2; U Catolica 3 Audax Italiano 1; U de Chile 3 Huachipato 1.
Nov 27-28: Santiago Morning 3 Cobreloa 5; Huachipato 0 U Catolica 4; Colo Colo 2 Audax Italiano 1; U de Chile 3 Palestino 1.
Dec 4-5: U de Chile 0 Santiago Morning 0; Cobreloa 4 Colo Colo 0; Audax Italiano 3 Huachipato 1; U Catolica 5 Palestino 3.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	12	8	3	1	89	39	46 [19]
Cobreloa	12	8	1	3	92	45	39 [14]
U Catolica	12	6	4	2	96	47	38 [16]
Colo Colo	12	4	2	6	58	56	26 [12]
Santiago Morning	12	3	6	3	62	61	25 [10]
Palestino	12	4	3	5	70	83	25 [10]
Huachipato	12	1	3	8	58	76	16 [10]
Audax Italiano	12	1	4	7	55	58	17 [10]

Points total includes a quarter of the points (shown in brackets) won during regular season. For and against totals include tallies from the regular season.

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 3: Millonarios 1 Dep Pasto 0; At Junior 2 Envigado 0; Indep Medellin 2 Tulua 1; Bucaramanga 3 At Nacional 1; America 0 Tolima 2; Once Caldas 1 Union Santa Marta 1; Quindio 1 Indep Santa Fe 3; At Huila 0 Dep Cali 2.
Nov 7: At Nacional 0 Millonarios 0; Dep Cali 3 America 1; Dep Pasto 6 Indep Medellin 1; Envigado 2 At Huila 1; Tolima 0 Once Caldas 0; Indep Santa Fe 1 Bucaramanga 2; Union Santa Marta 4 Quindio 0.
Nov 8: Tulua 1 At Junior 0.
Nov 11: At Huila 1 Indep Medellin 2; Quindio 1 Envigado 2; At Nacional 2 Tolima 2; America 2 Dep Pasto 2; Bucaramanga 2 Dep Cali 1; At Junior 1 Millonarios 1; Once Caldas 2 Tulua 1; Indep Santa Fe 3 Union Santa Marta 0.
Nov 14: Millonarios 3 Indep Santa Fe 0; Dep Cali 2 America 0; Dep Pasto 1 Bucaramanga 0; Envigado 0 Once Caldas 2; Tolima 6 At Huila 1; Union Santa Marta 1 At Junior 0; Indep Medellin 1 At Nacional 1; Tulua 2 Quindio 1.

COLOMBIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millonarios	22	10	12	0	31	14	42
Tulua	22	10	8	4	29	19	38
Indep Medellin	22	10	5	7	32	29	35
At Junior	22	10	5	7	27	24	35
Dep Cali	22	9	7	6	30	23	34
At Nacional	22	9	7	6	31	25	34
Once Caldas	22	8	10	4	37	24	34
Dep Pasto	22	10	2	10	33	33	32
Bucaramanga	22	9	4	9	25	25	31
America	22	7	8	7	28	26	29
Tolima	22	8	3	11	26	27	27
Envigado	22	8	4	10	25	33	25
Indep Santa Fe	22	5	8	9	25	30	23
Union Santa Marta	22	5	7	10	22	31	22
Quindio	22	4	6	12	28	45	18
At Huila	22	4	4	14	22	43	16

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP – SEMI-FINAL GROUPS

Nov 17: Indep Medellin 1 Dep Cali 3; Tulua 2 Dep Pasto 1; At Junior 1 At Nacional 2.
Nov 18: Once Caldas 1 Millonarios 1.
Nov 21: Millonarios 2 Indep Medellin 3; Dep Cali 0 Once Caldas 0; At Nacional 3 Tulua 2.
Nov 22: Dep Pasto 2 At Junior 3.
Nov 24: Once Caldas 1 Indep Medellin 1; Dep Cali 3 Millonarios 1; At Nacional 3 Dep Pasto 2.
Nov 25: Tulua 1 At Junior 1.
Nov 28: Indep Medellin 1 Once Caldas 1; Millonarios 2 Dep Cali 1; At Junior 2 Tulua 1; Dep Pasto 0 At Nacional 1.
Dec 1: Millonarios 0 Once Caldas 0; Dep Cali 1 Indep Medellin 2; At Nacional 2 At Junior 1.
Dec 2: Dep Pasto 0 Tulua 0.
Dec 5: Once Caldas 2 Dep Cali 4; Indep Medellin 2 Millonarios 1; Tulua 4 At Nacional 3; At Junior 3 Dep Pasto 2.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep Medellin	6	3	2	1	10	9	11
Dep Cali	6	3	1	2	12	8	10
Once Caldas	6	0	5	1	5	7	5
Millonarios	6	1	2	3	7	10	5

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Nacional	6	5	0	1	14	10	15
At Junior	6	3	1	2	11	10	10
Tulua	6	2	2	2	10	10	8
Dep Pasto	6	0	1	5	7	12	1

ECUADOR

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Nov 3: Dep Quito 1 Barcelona 0; LDU 3 Espoli 2.
Nov 5: Emelec 1 El Nacional 0.
Nov 7: Espoli 2 Emelec 1; El Nacional 1 Dep Quito 1; Barcelona 2 LDU 2.
Nov 14: Emelec 2 Espoli 0; Dep Quito 3 El Nacional 3; LDU 1 Barcelona 1.
Nov 17: Espoli 0 LDU 0; El Nacional 1 Emelec 0.
Nov 19: Barcelona 4 Dep Quito 1.
Nov 21: El Nacional 1 Espoli 1; Dep Quito 2 LDU 3; Emelec 1 Barcelona 0.
Nov 28: LDU 2 Emelec 0; Barcelona 1 El Nacional 1; Espoli 0 Dep Quito 1.
Dec 5: Espoli 4 Barcelona 1; El Nacional 2 LDU 0; Emelec 3 Dep Quito 0.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Nacional	10	4	5	1	14	8	20 [3]
LDU	10	5	3	2	15	11	19 [1]
Emelec	10	5	1	4	13	9	18 [2]
Dep Quito	10	3	3	4	16	20	14 [2]
Espoli	10	2	3	5	11	15	11 [2]
Barcelona	10	2	3	5	13	19	9 [0]

Top two meet in the Final. El Nacional, Emelec, LDU and Barcelona qualified as the top four from the Opening Championship; Dep Quito and Espoli as winners of the Second Stage groups. Points total includes bonus points (shown in brackets)

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Oct 31: Cerro Porteno 1 Guarani 0; Cerro Cora 2 San Lorenzo 1; Olimpia 1 12 de Octubre 0; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Colegiales 2.

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	3	2	1	0	6	2	10 [3]
Cerro Cora	3	2	1	0	6	3	7 [0]
San Lorenzo	3	1	0	2	4	7	4.5 [1.5]
Guarani	3	0	0	3	2	6	0.5 [0.5]

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	3	2	0	1	5	3	8 [2.0]
Sportivo Luqueno	3	1	1	1	5	4	6.5 [2.5]
12 de Octubre	3	1	1	1	2	2	5 [1]
Colegiales	3	1	0	2	2	5	3 [0]

Points total includes bonus points (shown in brackets), which were awarded according to finishing position in Closing Championship

SEMI-FINALS

Nov 7: Cerro Porteno 1 Sportivo Luqueno 1 *Cerro Porteno 4-3 on pens*; Olimpia 0 Cerro Cora 1.

FINAL

Nov 14: Cerro Cora 0 Cerro Porteno 3
Nov 21: Cerro Porteno 2 Cerro Cora 1

PLAY-OFF FOR THIRD LIBERTADORES PLACE

Nov 26: Cerro Cora 1 Colegiales 2.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Nov 28: Olimpia 1 Cerro Porteno 0.
Dec 5: Cerro Porteno 2 Olimpia 3.

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 6: Municipal 2 IMI Talara 0; Universitario 5 Dep Pesquero 0.
Nov 7: Alianza Atletico 1 Sporting Cristal 3; Melgar 2 Alianza Lima 1; Cienciano 2 Union Minas 2; Juan Aurich 5 Sport Boys 2.
Nov 14: IMI Talara 0 Sporting Cristal 2; Cienciano 2 Universitario 2; Dep Pesquero 2 Melgar 0; Sport Boys 4 Union Minas 0; Alianza Lima 2 Juan Aurich 1; Municipal 2 Alianza Atletico 1.
Nov 20: Union Minas 4 IMI Talara 0; Melgar 2 Sport Boys 0.
Nov 21: Sporting Cristal 2 Dep Pesquero 1; Universitario 2 Alianza Lima 3; Alianza Atletico 2 Cienciano 0; Juan Aurich 1 Municipal 1.
Nov 26: Alianza Lima 1 Alianza Atletico 0.
Nov 28: Dep Pesquero 1 Sport Boys 1; Union Minas 3 Sporting Cristal 0; IMI Talara 2 Melgar 2; Municipal 2 Cienciano 1; Universitario 2 Juan Aurich 0.
Dec 5: Dep Pesquero 3 IMI Talara 2; Sport Boys 2 Sporting Cristal 1; Alianza Atletico 2 Universitario 5; Municipal 1 Alianza Lima 6; Melgar 5 Union Minas 1; Cienciano 3 Juan Aurich 0.

PERU

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	21	13	5	3	45	17	44
Universitario	21	11	6	4	43	24	39
Sport Boys	21	11	5	5	32	25	38
Melgar	21	11	3	7	42	27	36
Sporting Cristal	21	10	5	6	43	29	35
Alianza Atletico	21	7	6	8	35	25	27
Cienciano	21	6	9	6	26	23	27
Union Minas	21	6	7	8	39	39	25
Juan Aurich	21	7	3	11	23	31	24
Dep Pesquero	21	4	8	9	17	34	20
Dep Municipal	21	5	3	13	20	53	18
IMI Talara	21	1	6	14	12	52	9

URUGUAY

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

1st leg - Nov 3 - Estadio Centenario
Penarol 1 (Romero 55)
Nacional 1 (Alvez 64)

2nd leg - Nov 7 - Estadio Centenario
Nacional 1 (Alvez pen 3)
Penarol 1 (Bengochea 20)

3rd leg - Nov 13 - Estadio Centenario
Penarol 2 (Rodriguez 33, Pandiani 35)
Nacional 1 (Alvez pen 19)

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 31: Estudiantes 3 Caracas 0; Trujillanos 2 FCU-ULA 2; Inter El Vigia 5 Mineros Guayana 2; Ital-Chacao 0 Zulianos 0; Nacional 1 Dep Tachira 1; Llaneros 1 Carabobo 2.
Nov 7: Zulianos 1 Estudiantes 2; FCU-ULA 4 Inter El Vigia 0; Caracas 3 Trujillanos 0; Mineros Guayana 0 Nacional 1; Carabobo 1 Ital-Chacao 3.
Nov 10: Llaneros 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Zulianos 3 Carabobo 0; Nacional 1 FCU-ULA 2; Inter El Vigia 2 Caracas 1.
Nov 14: FCU-ULA 3 Llaneros 1; Carabobo 0 Estudiantes 3; Dep Tachira 2 Zulianos 2; Trujillanos 1 Inter El Vigia 1; Caracas 3 Nacional 2.
Nov 17: Dep Tachira 4 Llaneros 1; Estudiantes 3 Trujillanos 1.
Nov 21: Llaneros 3 Caracas 3; Estudiantes 3 Inter El Vigia 3; Ital-Chacao 1 FCU-ULA 0; Nacional 0 Trujillanos 0; Zulianos 1 Mineros Guayana 2; Carabobo 1 Dep Tachira 1.
Nov 28: FCU-ULA 1 Zulianos 0; Inter El Vigia 1 Nacional 0; Dep Tachira 0 Estudiantes 2; Trujillanos 5 Llaneros 0; Caracas 4 Ital-Chacao 3; Mineros Guayana 6 Carabobo 2.
Dec 2: Llaneros 5 Inter El Vigia 3; Dep Tachira 2 Mineros Guayana 0; Estudiantes 4 Nacional 0; Carabobo 3 FCU-ULA 2; Ital-Chacao 3 Trujillanos 2.
Dec 5: Caracas 3 Carabobo 1; Inter El Vigia 1 Ital-Chacao 2; Mineros Guayana 0 Estudiantes 1; FCU-ULA 0 Dep Tachira 1; Zulianos 4 Trujillanos 1; Nacional 0 Llaneros 0.

VENEZUELA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	20	12	4	4	48	22	40
Dep Tachira	19	11	6	2	31	17	39
Caracas	19	9	7	3	37	26	34
Ital-Chacao	19	9	7	3	27	16	34
Trujillanos	20	7	7	6	30	26	28
Mineros Guayana	20	7	6	7	26	28	27
FCU-ULA	20	6	5	9	29	33	23
Nacional	20	5	7	8	19	30	22
Zulianos	19	5	5	9	24	25	20
Inter El Vigia	20	5	4	11	30	46	19
Carabobo	20	4	6	10	22	38	18
Llaneros	20	2	9	9	27	42	15

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 3: Atletico Morelia 2 Toros Neza 1; Santos 1 Atlas 3; Necaxa 2 Toluca 1; Monterrey 4 Atlante 2; Puebla 1 Tigres 1; Pumas UNAM 2 America 1; Tecos UAG 1 Celaya 2; Cruz Azul 0 Guadalajara 0.
Nov 4: Pachuca 1 Leon 0.
Nov 6: Toluca 2 Monterrey 2; Tigres 1 Necaxa 1; Atlante 2 Cruz Azul 4; Atletico Celaya 0 Santos 1; Atlas 2 Atletico Morelia 1.
Nov 7: Guadalajara 1 Pachuca 0; Leon 6 Tecos UAG 2; Toros Neza 1 Pumas UNAM 2; America 1 Puebla 0.
Nov 13: Necaxa 3 Monterrey 0; Cruz Azul 2 Toluca 2; Tigres 2 America 2; Puebla 3 Toros Neza 1; Tecos UAG 3 Guadalajara 1; Pachuca 3 Atlante 0.
Nov 14: Morelia 2 Atletico Celaya 0; Pumas UNAM 0 Atlas 1; Santos 3 Leon 0.
Nov 21: Atlas 1 Puebla 0; Toros Neza 0 Tigres 4; America 0 Necaxa 1; Atlante 0 Tecos UAG 1; Guadalajara 2 Santos 2; Atletico Celaya 0 Pumas UNAM 2; Leon 2 Atletico Morelia 1; Toluca 3 Pachuca 3; Monterrey 1 Cruz Azul 0.

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	17	9	5	3	40	25	32
Tecos UAG	17	7	2	8	26	35	23
Pumas UNAM	17	6	3	8	28	32	21
Leon	17	5	3	9	22	32	18
Toros Neza	17	3	3	11	19	41	12

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	17	7	6	4	25	16	27
Atletico Morelia	17	6	4	7	26	26	22
Puebla	17	5	5	7	19	19	20
Monterrey	17	6	2	9	29	35	20
Atletico Celaya	17	5	4	8	19	27	19

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	17	11	5	1	40	16	38
America	17	8	4	5	31	18	28
Santos Laguna	17	5	5	7	27	35	20
Atlante	17	3	7	7	20	29	16

GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	17	9	3	5	32	22	30
Guadalajara	17	8	4	5	20	19	28
Pachuca	17	8	2	7	28	28	26
Tigres	17	5	7	5	27	23	22

Group winners plus the three runners-up with the most points qualified for quarter-finals. Other runner-up (Atletico Morelia) played off against third-placed side with most points (Pachuca) for remaining place

QUALIFICATION PLAY-OFF

Nov 25: Atletico Morelia 4 Pachuca 2.
Nov 28: Pachuca 2 Atletico Morelia 0.
Agg 4-4. Pachuca on away goals.

QUARTER-FINALS

1st legs
Dec 1: Pachuca 1 Toluca 0; Tecos UAG 2 Atlas 3; Cruz Azul 1 Necaxa 0.
Dec 2: Guadalajara 0 America 0.

2nd legs
Toluca 2 Pachuca 2 *Pachuca 3-2 on agg;* Atlas 2 Tecos UAG 2 *Atlas 5-4 on agg;* Necaxa 3 Cruz Azul 4 *Cruz Azul 5-3 on agg;* America 1 Guadalajara 0 *America 1-0 on agg.*

USA

FINALS

(best of three)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Oct 31: DC United 2 Columbus Crew 1.
Nov 7: Columbus Crew 5 DC United 1.
Nov 13: DC United 4 Columbus Crew 0
DC United won series 2-1.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Oct 31: LA Galaxy 2 Dallas Burn 1.
Nov 7: Dallas Burn 2 LA Galaxy 2
Dallas on shoot-outs.
Nov 11: LA Galaxy 3 Dallas Burn 1
LA Galaxy won series 2-1.

MLS CUP 99

Nov 21 - Foxboro stadium, Boston
DC United 2 (Moreno 19, Olsen 45)
LA Galaxy 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 44,910. **Ref:** Weyland

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raja (Mor)	6	3	2	1	4	2	11
Al Ahly (Egy)	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
Hearts of Oak (Gha)	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
Shooting Stars (Nig)	6	1	1	4	6	13	4

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance (Tun)	6	5	0	1	13	1	15
ASEC Abidjan (IvC)	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Dynamos (Zim)	6	2	0	4	9	9	6
Saint-Louisienne (Reu)	6	1	1	4	4	17	4

FINAL

1st leg - Nov 27
Raja Casablanca (Mor) 0
Esperance (Tun) 0

2nd leg - Dec 12
Esperance 0
Raja Casablanca 0
Agg 0-0. Raja 4-3 on pens

CUP-WINNERS CUP

FINAL

1st leg - Nov 21
Africa Sports (IvC) 1 (F Keita 30)
Club Africain (Tun) 0

2nd leg - Dec 4
Club Africain 1 (Amrouche 24)
Africa Sports 1 (A Keita 23)
Africa Sports 2-1 on agg

CAF CUP

FINAL

1st leg - Nov 13
Etoile Sahel (Tun) 1 (Idoudi 25)
Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 0

2nd leg - Nov 28
Wydad Casablanca 2 (Marhoubi 53, Lakhouil 86)
Etoile Sahel 1 (Ghodhbane 27)
Agg 2-2. Etoile Sahel on away goals

ASIA

CHAMPIONS CUP

FIRST ROUND

EAST ASIA ZONE
GD Lam Pak (Mco) 0 Sinthana (Tha) 2
Sinthana 7 GD Lam Pak 1
Sinthana 9-1 on agg

SECOND ROUND

WEST ASIA ZONE

2nd leg
Al Ansar (Leb) 0 Pirouzi (Irn) 0
Pirouzi 3-0 on agg

EAST ASIA ZONE
Mohun Bagan (Ind) v Jubilo Iwata (Jap)
2nd leg not played; Jubilo went through after winning 1st leg 8-0.

JAPAN

J.LEAGUE – SECOND STAGE

Oct 27: Jubilo Iwata 0 Kashiwa Reysol 1.
Oct 30: Verdy Kawasaki 1 Jubilo Iwata 0; JEF United Ichihara 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Kashiwa Reysol 1 Yokohama F Marinos 1 (aet); Bellmare Hiratsuka 1 Cerezo Osaka 6; Kyoto Purple Sanga 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 2; Vissel Kobe 2 Urawa Reds 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Kashima Antlers 0; Avispa Fukuoka 1 Gamba Osaka 3.
Nov 7: Jubilo Iwata 5 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2.
Nov 17: Kashima Antlers 0 Vissel Kobe 1; Urawa Reds 1 JEF United Ichihara 0; Kashiwa Reysol 3 Avispa Fukuoka 1; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Cerezo Osaka 2 Verdy Kawasaki 1.
Nov 20: Kashima Antlers 5 Kyoto Purple Sanga 0; JEF United Ichihara 0 Vissel Kobe 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 4 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Gamba Osaka 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 (aet); Urawa Reds 2 Bellmare Hiratsuka 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Avispa Fukuoka 0; Cerezo Osaka 1 Yokohama F Marinos 2.
Nov 23: Vissel Kobe 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 Jubilo Iwata 6; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1; Avispa Fukuoka 0 JEF United Ichihara 5; Bellmare Hiratsuka 0 Kashima Antlers 6; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Cerezo Osaka 3; Yokohama F Marinos 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 2; Verdy Kawasaki 2 Urawa Reds 2 (aet).
Nov 27: Kashima Antlers 2 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Urawa Red Diamonds 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 (aet); Yokohama F Marinos 2 Avispa Fukuoka 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Kashiwa Reysol 2; Jubilo Iwata 3 Bellmare Hiratsuka 2; Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 Vissel Kobe 0; Gamba Osaka 0 JEF United Ichihara 1; Cerezo Osaka 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 3 (aet).

JAPAN – SECOND STAGE FINAL

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shimizu S-P	15	11	1	0	2	28	13	35
Grampus Eight	15	10	1	1	3	32	23	33
Yokohama FM	15	8	2	2	3	30	15	30
Kashiwa R	15	8	2	1	4	23	18	29
Cerezo Osaka	15	6	3	0	5	39	24	24
Kashima A	15	6	2	0	5	30	18	22
Vissel Kobe	15	5	2	3	5	18	21	22
Sanfrecce H	15	6	1	1	5	24	25	21
Kyoto PS	15	5	2	0	6	20	30	19
Verdy K	15	4	2	1	6	23	28	17
JEF United	15	4	2	0	6	22	22	16
Jubilo Iwata	15	4	1	1	7	23	27	15
Gamba Osaka	15	4	1	1	8	15	21	15
Urawa RD	15	4	1	1	4	18	25	15
Avispa Fukuoka	15	3	1	1	10	18	29	12
Bellmare H	15	1	0	1	10	15	39	4

YAMAZAKI NABISCO CUP FINAL

Nov 3: Kashiwa Reysol 2 Kashima Antlers 2
Aet. Reysol 5-4 on pens.

SQUAD LISTS 1999-2000

GERMANY

ARMINIA BIELEFELD

GOALKEEPERS

30	Frederik GOSSLING	22.09.77
1	Georg KOCH	03.02.72
22	Zdenko MILETIC (Cro)	23.04.68

DEFENDERS

14	Marcio BORGES (Bra)	20.01.73
16	Karsten BREMKE	25.06.71
31	Marcell FENSCH	23.08.75
18	Alexander KLITZPERA	19.10.77
4	Silvio MEISSNER	19.01.73
2	Jacky PEETERS (Blg)	13.12.69
16	Christian SABA (Gha)	29.12.78
19	Roberto STRAAL (Hol)	19.12.66
6	Thomas STRATOS	09.10.66

MIDFIELDERS

23	Christian ALDER	03.09.78
3	Karim BAGHERI (Irn)	20.02.74
21	BAYA BAYA (Cam)	28.10.78
25	Jorg BODE	22.08.69
7	Jorg BOHME	22.01.74
5	Andre HOFSCHNEIDER	10.06.70
26	Lukas KWASNIOK (Pol)	12.06.81
8	Ronald MAUL	13.02.73
15	Thorsten NEHRBAUER	12.01.78
17	Bartosz PARTYKA (Pol)	02.04.81
12	Rene RYDLEWICZ	18.07.73
11	Michael STERNKOPF	21.04.70

FORWARDS

24	Berkant GOKTAN	12.12.80
9	Bruno LABBADIA	08.02.66
20	Dirk VAN DER VEN	01.03.70
	Markus WEISSENBERGER	08.03.75

COACH

Hermann GERLAND

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS

23	Dirk HEINEN	03.12.70
20	Frank JURIC (Aus)	28.10.73
1	Adam MATYSEK (Pol)	19.07.68

DEFENDERS

19	Vratislav GRESKO (Slk)	24.07.77
3	Markus HAPPE	11.02.72
14	Torben HOFFMANN	27.10.74
2	Robert KOVAC (Cro)	06.04.74
21	Zoran MAMIC (Cro)	30.09.71
5	Jens NOWOTNY	11.01.74
6	Boris ZIVKOVIC (Cro)	15.11.75

MIDFIELDERS

	Michael BALLACK	20.09.76
22	Stefan BEINLICH	13.01.72
10	EMERSON Ferreira da Rosa (Bra)	04.04.76
18	Frankie HEJDUK (USA)	05.08.74
17	Hans-Peter LEHNHOFF	12.07.63
28	Carsten RAMELOW	20.03.74
7	ROBSON PONTE (Bra)	06.11.76
4	Jorg REEB	06.01.72
25	Bernd SCHNEIDER	17.11.73
24	Darioush YASDANI (Irn)	02.06.77
8	Ze Roberto (Bra)	06.07.74

FORWARDS

12	Thomas BRDARIC	23.01.75
9	Ulf KIRSTEN	04.12.65

27	Oliver NEUVILLE	01.05.73
11	Thomas REICHENBERGER	14.10.74
16	Miroslaw SPIZAK (Pol)	13.01.79

COACH

Christoph DAUM

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS

22	Bernd DREHER	02.11.66
1	Oliver KAHN	15.06.69
12	Sven SCHEUER	19.01.71

DEFENDERS

5	Patrik ANDERSSON (Swe)	18.08.71
2	Markus BABBEL	08.09.72
4	Samuel Osei KUFFOUR (Gha)	03.09.76
25	Thomas LINKE	26.12.69
10	Lothar MATTHAUS	21.03.61
23	Frank WIBLISHAUSER	18.10.77

MIDFIELDERS

14	Mario BASLER	18.12.68
11	Stefan EFFENBERG	02.08.68
17	Thorsten FINK	29.10.67
31	David JAROLIM (Cze)	17.05.79
16	Jens JEREMIES	05.03.74
30	Nils-Eric JOHANSSON (Swe)	13.01.80
3	Bixente LIZARAZU (Fra)	09.12.69
13	PAULO SERGIO Silvestre do Nascimento (Bra)	02.06.69
7	Mehmet SCHOLL	16.10.70
8	Thomas STRUNZ	25.04.68
18	Michael TARNAT	27.10.69
6	Michael WIESINGER	27.12.72

FORWARDS

32	Emanuel BENTIL (Gha)	03.12.78
9	Giovane ELBER (Bra)	23.07.72
19	Carsten JANCKER	28.08.74
20	Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos)	01.01.77
15	Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par)	16.08.81
21	Alexander ZICKLER	28.02.74

COACH

Ottmar HITZFELD

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS

12	Wolfgang DE BEER	02.01.64
1	Jens LEHMANN	10.11.69

DEFENDERS

33	Karsten BAUMANN	14.10.69
3	EVANILSON Aparecido Ferreira (Bra)	12.09.75
27	Wolfgang FEIERSINGER (Aut)	31.01.65
5	Jurgen KOHLER	06.10.65
15	Alfred NIJHUIS (Hol)	23.03.66
7	Stefan REUTER	16.10.66
2	Christian WORNS	10.05.72

MIDFIELDERS

19	Otto ADDO (Gha)	09.06.75
14	Sergej BARBAREZ (Bos)	17.09.71
29	Vladimir BUT (Rus)	24.09.77
17	Leonardo de Deus Santos, DEDE (Bra)	18.04.78
16	Sead KAPETANOVIC (Bos)	21.01.72
10	Andreas MOLLER	02.09.67
8	Christian NERLINGER	21.03.73
18	Lars RICKEN	10.07.76
4	Miroslav STEVIC (Yug)	07.01.70
21	Christian TIMM	27.02.79

FORWARDS

20	Fredi BOBIC	30.10.71
11	Heiko HERRLICH	03.12.71
24	Victor IKPEBA (Nig)	12.06.73
13	Giuseppe REINA	15.04.72
22	Ibrahim TANKO (Gha)	25.07.77

COACH

Michael SKIBBE

DUISBURG

GOALKEEPERS

26	Carsten KRAMER	29.07.74
30	Andreas MENGER	11.09.72
25	Gintaras STAUCHE (Lit)	24.12.69

DEFENDERS

11	Pavel DRSEK (Cze)	22.09.76
22	Stefan EMMERLING	10.02.66
5	Tomasz HAJTO (Pol)	16.10.72
7	Marijan KOVACEVIC	31.08.73
17	Thorsten SCHRAMM	19.02.79
27	Peter SCHYRBA	17.10.80
4	Torsten WOHLERT	10.12.65

MIDFIELDERS

32	Yasser EL HAMROUNI (Fra)	24.08.76
3	Dietmar HIRSCH	08.12.71
2	Thomas HOERSEN	11.01.72
23	Ralf KEIDEL	06.03.77
19	Jorg NEUN	07.05.66
8	Markus OSTHOFF	19.11.68
16	Martin SCHNEIDER	24.11.68
15	Horst STEFFEN	03.03.69
6	Stig TOFTING (Den)	14.08.69
31	Reiner TORRES	12.01.80
21	Thomas VANA	09.10.72
12	Andreas VOSS	27.02.79
14	Marcus WEDAU	31.12.75
24	Carsten WOLTERS	25.07.69
20	Michael ZEYER	09.06.68

FORWARDS

9	Erik Bo Andersen (Den)	14.11.70
13	Markus BEIERLE	02.06.72
28	Alexander BUGERA	08.08.78
29	Sercan GUVENISIK	01.03.80
18	Uwe SPIES	08.07.67

COACH

Friedhelm FUNKEL

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT

GOALKEEPERS

1	Oka NIKOLOV (Mac)	25.05.74
23	Sven SCHMITT	27.12.76

DEFENDERS

26	Donald AGU (Nig)	12.12.75
20	Uwe BINDEWALD	13.08.68
5	Petar HUBTCHEV (Bul)	26.02.64
16	Olaf JANSSEN	08.10.66
2	Torsten KRACHT	04.10.67
18	Alexander KUTSCHERA	21.03.68
4	Jens RASIEJEWSKI	01.01.75
14	Uwe SCHNEIDER	28.08.71
6	Thomas ZAMPACH	27.12.69

MIDFIELDERS

17	Erol BULUT (Tur)	30.01.75
22	Tibor DOMBI (Hun)	11.11.73
19	Patrick FALK	08.02.80
3	Marco GEBHARDT	07.10.72
15	Rolf-Christel GUIE-MIEN (Con)	28.10.77
10	Horst HELDT	09.12.69
33	Michael MUTZEL	27.09.79
25	Alexander ROSEN	10.04.79
24	Alexander SCHUR	23.07.71
28	Albert STREIT	28.03.80
8	Ralf WEBER	31.05.69

FORWARDS

7	Thomas EPP	07.04.68
9	Jan-Aage FJORTOFT (Nor)	10.01.67
11	Bachirou SALOU (Tog)	15.09.70
30	Christoph WESTERTHALER (Aut)	11.01.65
21	Chen YANG (Chn)	17.01.74
29	Stefan ZINNOW	28.05.80

COACH

Jorg BERGER

FREIBURG

GOALKEEPERS

1	Richard GOLZ	05.06.68
24	Timo REUS	02.05.74
21	Manuel SCHOPPEL	30.10.80

DEFENDERS

26	Timo BOTTJER	31.05.79
17	Boubacar DIARRA (Mli)	15.07.79
16	Lars HERMEL	28.09.70
5	Oumar KONDE (Swi)	19.08.79
6	Steffen KORELL	27.10.71
13	Stefan MULLER	08.03.74
2	Daniel SCHUMANN	13.02.77

MIDFIELDERS

7	Zoubaier BAYA (Tun)	15.05.71
8	Bjorn DREYER	27.07.77
30	Ali Mehmet GUNES (Tur)	23.11.78
27	Laszlo KANYUK	13.01.79
10	Levan KOBIASCHWILI (Geo)	10.07.77
12	Ralf KOHL	28.10.65
14	Miran PAVLIN (Sln)	08.10.71
29	Tobias WILLI	14.12.79
4	Andreas ZEYER	09.06.68
3	Levan ZKITISCHWILI (Geo)	10.10.76

FORWARDS

18	Mehdi BEN Slimane (Tun)	05.01.73
23	Florian BRUNS	21.08.79
25	Stefan HAMPL	17.09.74
9	Alexander IASCHWILI (Geo)	23.10.77
32	Adel SELLIMI (Tun)	16.11.72
22	Uwe WASSMER	22.01.66
11	Marco WEISSHAUPT	24.06.72

COACH

Volker FINKE

HAMBURG

GOALKEEPERS

12	Alexander BADE	25.08.70
1	Hans-Jorg BUTT	28.05.74
28	Sascha ILIC (Mac)	05.09.70

DEFENDERS

14	Fabian ERNST	30.05.79
2	Thomas GRAVESEN (Den)	11.03.76
4	Ingo HERTZSCH	22.07.77
5	Nico-Jan HOOGMA (Hol)	26.10.68
3	Andrej PANADIC (Cro)	09.03.69
25	Josip SIMUNIC (Cro)	18.02.78

MIDFIELDERS

30	Christoph BABATZ	03.09.74
27	Rodolfo Esteban CARDOSO (Arg)	17.10.68
10	Thomas DOLL	09.04.66
13	Andreas FISCHER	20.10.64
6	Dimitrios GRAMMOZIS	08.07.78
7	Martin GROTH	20.10.69
26	Ozkan GUMUS	24.08.77
20	Bernd HOLLERBACH	08.12.69
11	Niko KOVAC (Cro)	15.10.71
21	Harald SPORL	31.10.66

FORWARDS

29	Karsten BARON	24.04.73
8	Jacek DEMBINSKI (Pol)	20.12.69
9	Vanja GRUBAC (Yug)	11.01.71
23	Vahid HASHEMIAN (Irn)	21.07.76
15	Mehdi MAHDAVIKIA (Irn)	24.07.77
21	Roy PRAGER	22.09.71
19	Soner UYSAL	24.08.77
17	Anthony YEBOAH (Gha)	06.06.66
24	Mahmut YILMAZ	06.10.79

COACH

Frank PAGELSDORF

HANSA ROSTOCK

GOALKEEPERS

26	Perry BRAUTIGAM	28.03.63
21	Daniel KLEWER	04.03.77
1	Martin PIECKENHAGEN	15.11.71

DEFENDERS

5	Uwe EHLERS	08.03.75
16	Thomas GANSAUGE	04.06.70
6	Olaf HOLETSCHEK	12.07.68
14	Kai OSWALD	29.11.77
20	Rene SCHNEIDER	01.02.73
8	Hilmar WEILANDT	29.09.66
25	Marco ZALLMANN	17.11.67

MIDFIELDERS

9	Matthias BREITKREUTZ	12.05.71
3	Mohammed EMARA (Egy)	10.06.74
28	Bjorn LAARS	05.12.74
2	Timo LANGE	19.01.68
18	Slawomir MAJAK (Pol)	12.01.69
7	Abder RAMDANE (Fra)	23.02.74
13	Ronny THIELEMANN	15.11.73
38	Peter WIBRAN (Swe)	23.03.69
12	Radwan YASSER (Egy)	22.04.72

FORWARDS

22	Victor AGALI (Nig)	29.12.78
19	Abdelaziz AHANFOUF	14.01.78
15	Magnus ARVIDSSON (Swe)	12.02.73
11	Henri FUCHS	23.06.70
10	Kreso KOVACEC	20.07.69

COACH

Andreas ZACHHUBER

HERTHA BERLIN

GOALKEEPERS

12	Christian FIEDLER	27.03.75
1	Gabor KIRALY (Hun)	01.04.76

DEFENDERS

	Thomas HELMER	21.04.65
2	Hendrik HERZOG	02.04.69
33	Marko REHMER	29.04.72
10	Kjetil-Andre REKDAL (Nor)	06.11.68
6	Eyjolfur SVERRISSON (Ice)	03.08.68
4	Dick VAN BURIK (Hol)	29.11.73

MIDFIELDERS

18	Pal DARDAI (Hun)	16.03.76
26	Sebastian DEISLER	05.01.80
21	Michael HARTMANN	11.07.74
5	Kostas KONSTANTINIDIS (Gre)	31.08.72
3	Rob MAAS (Hol)	17.12.69
7	Sergej MANDREKO (Rus)	01.08.71
20	Andreas NEUENDORF	09.02.75
17	Tony SANNEH (USA)	01.06.71
19	Andreas SCHMIDT	14.09.73
23	Rene TRETSCHOK	23.12.68
16	Sixten VEIT	07.01.70
8	Dariusz WOSZ	08.06.69

FORWARDS

25	Ilija ARACIC (Cro)	15.11.70
14	Ante COVIC (Cro)	31.08.75
9	Ali DAEI (Irn)	21.03.69
24	Kai MICHALKE	05.04.76
31	Ivica OLIC (Cro)	14.09.79
11	Michael PREETZ	17.08.67
22	Piotr REISS (Pol)	20.06.72
15	Bryan ROY (Hol)	12.02.70
13	Alphonse TCHAMI (Cam)	14.02.71
27	Andreas THOM	07.09.65

COACH

Jurgen ROBER

KAISERSLAUTERN

GOALKEEPERS

16	Uwe GOSPODAREK	06.08.73
1	Andreas REINKE	10.01.69
25	Lajos SZUCS (Hun)	08.08.73
26	Roman WEIDENFELLER	06.08.80

DEFENDERS

15	Janos HRUTKA (Hun)	26.10.74
5	Samir IBRAHIM (Egy)	02.04.72
24	Harry KOCH	15.11.69
13	Slobodan KOMLJENOVIC (Yug)	02.01.71
6	Hany RAMZY (Egy)	10.03.69
4	Axel ROOS	19.08.64
2	Michael SCHJONBERG (Den)	19.01.67
21	Jeff STRASSER (Lux)	05.10.74

MIDFIELDERS

22	Andreas BUCK	29.12.67
14	Youri DJORKAEFF (Fra)	09.03.68
7	Marian HRISTOV (Bul)	29.07.73
28	JUNIOR (Bra)	10.10.77
17	Everson Rodrigues, RATINHO (Bra)	08.06.71
10	Ciriaco SFORZA (Swi)	02.03.70
20	Thomas SOBOTZIK	16.10.74
8	Martin WAGNER	24.02.68

FORWARDS

23	Silvio ADZIC	23.09.80
11	Olaf MARSCHALL	19.03.66
9	Jorgen PETTERSSON (Swe)	29.09.75
12	Marco REICH	30.12.77
18	Jurgen RISCHE	30.10.70
19	Igli TARE (Alb)	25.07.73

COACH

Otto REHHAGEL

1860 MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS

22	Daniel HOFFMANN	27.10.71
1	Michael HOFMANN	03.11.72

DEFENDERS

19	Guido GORGES	08.06.73
15	Holger GREILICH	12.07.71
4	Marco KURZ	16.05.69
2	Stephan PASSLACK	24.08.70
32	Thomas RICHTER	01.11.70
16	Jorg SCHERBE	19.10.77
36	Martin STRANZL (Aut)	16.06.80
12	Filip TAPALOVIC	22.10.76
5	Tomas VOTAVA (Cze)	21.02.74
3	Ned ZELIC (Aus)	04.07.71

MIDFIELDERS

17	Daniel BORIMIROV (Bul)	15.01.70
13	Harald CERNY (Aut)	13.09.73
20	Martin CIZEK (Cze)	09.06.74
33	Michel DINZEY (DRC)	15.10.72
10	Thomas HASSLER	30.05.66
35	Awudu ISSAKA (Gha)	26.06.79
28	Thomas MEGGLE	22.02.75
8	Christian PROSENIK (Aut)	07.06.68
7	Marcus PURK (Aut)	21.09.74
23	Thomas RIEDL	18.06.76
6	Roman TYCE (Cze)	07.05.77

FORWARDS

18	Paul AGOSTINO (Aus)	09.06.75
29	Olaf BODDEN	04.05.68
9	Martin MAX	07.08.68
21	Markus SCHROTH	25.01.75
11	Bernhard WINKLER	24.06.66

COACH

Werner LORANT

SCHALKE

GOALKEEPERS

13	Frode GRODAS (Nor)	24.10.64
1	Oliver RECK	27.02.65
22	Mathias SCHOBER	08.04.76
29	Toni TAPALOVIC	10.10.80

DEFENDERS

25	Johan DE KOCK (Hol)	25.10.64
4	Yves EIGENRAUCH	24.04.71
32	Krisztian SZOLLAR (Hun)	30.08.80
10	Olaf THON	01.05.66
12	Marco VAN HOOGDALEM (Hol)	23.05.72
15	Tomasz WALDOCH (Pol)	10.05.71

MIDFIELDERS

17	Unal ALPUGAN	03.08.73
8	Ingo ANDERBRUGGE	02.01.64
19	Michael BUSKENS	19.03.68
30	Tamas HAJNAL (Hun)	15.03.81
16	Oliver HELD	10.09.72
28	Markus KAYA	20.10.79
5	Sven KMETSCH	13.08.70
3	Radoslav LATAL (Cze)	06.01.70
6	Andreas MULLER	13.12.62
20	Jiri NEMEC (Cze)	16.05.66
18	Niels OUDE KAMPHUIS (Hol)	14.11.77
2	Nico VAN KERCKHOVEN (Blg)	14.12.70
24	Marc WILMOTS (Blg)	22.02.69

FORWARDS

14	Gerald ASAMOAH	03.10.78
7	Michael GOOSSENS (Blg)	30.11.73
9	Youri MULDER (Hol)	23.03.69
31	Sergio PINTO	16.10.80
11	Ebbe SAND (Den)	19.07.72

COACH

Huub STEVENS

STUTTGART

GOALKEEPERS

25	Achim HOLLERIETH	24.09.73
28	Eberhard TRAUTNER	07.02.67
1	Franz WOHLFAHRT (Aut)	01.07.64

DEFENDERS

4	Thomas BERTHOLD	12.11.64
5	Marcelo Jose BORDON (Bra)	07.01.76
21	Jochen ENDRESS	03.11.72
2	Jens KELLER	24.11.70
29	Thomas KIES	16.10.75
3	Thorsten LEGAT	07.11.68
14	Thomas SCHNEIDER	24.11.72
24	Martin SPANRING	14.10.69

MIDFIELDERS

10	Krassimir BALAKOV (Bul)	29.03.66
16	Bradley CARNELL (SAf)	22.01.77
18	Giuseppe CATIZONE	20.09.77
7	Kristijan DJORDJEVIC (Yug)	06.01.76
12	Heiko GERBER	11.07.72
26	Tobias ISELI	17.08.78
22	Krisztian LISZTES (Hun)	02.07.76
33	Roberto PINTO	22.08.78
17	Timo ROST	29.08.78
34	Jorn SCHMIEDEL	13.09.78
20	Zvonimir SOLDO (Cro)	02.11.67
15	Mitko STOJKOVSKI (Mac)	18.12.72
6	Pablo THIAM (Gui)	03.01.74
8	Jens TODT	05.01.70
19	Srgjan ZAHARIEVSKI (Mac)	12.09.73

FORWARDS

	Sean DUNDEE	07.12.72
11	Ioan GANEA (Rom)	19.08.73
23	Ahmed Salah HOSNY (Egy)	11.07.79
9	Pavel KUKA (Cze)	19.07.68
13	Sasa MARKOVIC (Yug)	17.09.71
27	Sreto RISTIC	07.02.76

COACH

Ralf RANGNICK

ULM

GOALKEEPERS

30	Holger BETZ	16.05.78
1	Philipp LAUX	25.01.73

DEFENDERS

8	Tomas BODOG (Hun)	27.09.70
5	Uwe GRAUER	01.01.70
3	Frank KINKEL	20.12.73
2	Marco KONRAD	18.10.74
21	Rui Manuel MARQUES (Por)	03.09.77
29	Klaus MIRWALD	11.09.68
14	Janos RADOKI	07.03.72
4	Joachim STADLER	15.01.70
15	Oliver UNSOLD	21.10.73

MIDFIELDERS

26	Unal DEMIRKIRAN	24.06.79
10	Janusz GORA (Pol)	08.07.63
19	Bernd MAIER	30.11.74
28	Marco MANGOLD	21.08.80
16	Thomas MOTZKE	12.05.68
6	Oliver OTTO	21.11.72
7	Markus PLEULER	10.05.70
20	Sascha ROSLER	28.10.77
18	Rainer SCHARINGER	04.03.67
27	Udo SCHROTTER	05.06.81
25	Ralf ZIMMERMANN	07.01.81

FORWARDS

11	Dragan TRKULJA (Yug)	30.09.64
9	Hans VAN DER HAAR (Hol)	01.02.75
22	Evans WISE (T&T)	23.11.73
23	David Allen ZDRILIC (Aus)	13.04.74

COACH

Martin ANDERMATT

UNTERHACHING

GOALKEEPERS

22	Udo MAI	29.07.67
27	Peter SIRCH	30.12.61
28	Gerhard TREMMEL	16.11.78
1	Jurgen WITTMANN	14.08.66

DEFENDERS

6	Jorg BERGEN	27.06.66
4	Ralf BUCHER	06.04.72
25	Stefan FRUHBEIS	01.03.79
20	Dennis GRASSOW	10.10.71
17	Jan SEIFERT	14.10.68
2	Alexander STREHMEL	20.03.68
24	Ivica VLADIMIR (Cro)	25.01.65

MIDFIELDERS

16	Andreas HARTIG	17.10.70
21	Bjorn HERTL	10.08.76
7	Dirk HOFMANN	06.06.69
18	Ludwig KOGL	07.03.66
	Alberto MENDEZ Rodriguez	24.11.75
10	Markus OBERLEITNER	16.08.73
23	Ulrich PFLUG	17.10.75
12	Danny SCHWARZ	11.05.75
3	Oliver STRAUBE	13.12.71
15	Arne TAMMEN	29.01.72
8	Peter ZEILER	08.10.70
5	Matthias ZIMMERMANN	14.09.70

FORWARDS

14	Alfonso GARCIA	24.10.69
9	Altin RRAKLLI (Alb)	17.07.70
11	Jochen SEITZ	11.10.76
13	Mark ZIMMERMANN	01.03.74

COACH

Lorenz-Gunther KOSTNER

WERDER BREMEN

GOALKEEPERS

16	Pascal BOREL	26.09.78
12	Stefan BRASAS	31.08.67
1	Frank ROST	30.06.73

DEFENDERS

33	Mike BARTEN	20.11.73
6	Frank BAUMANN	29.10.75
24	Sven BENKEN	20.04.70
	JULIO CESAR Santos Correa (Bra)	17.08.78
29	Matthias PLUMP	30.11.78
19	Victor SKRIPNIK (Ukr)	19.11.69
8	Bernhard TRARES	18.08.65
3	Raphael WICKY (Swi)	26.04.77
13	Andree WIEDENER	14.03.70
30	Pawel WOJTALA (Pol)	27.10.72

MIDFIELDERS

11	Jacek CHANKO (Pol)	25.01.74
23	Christoph DABROWSKI	01.07.78
5	Dieter EILTS	13.12.64
4	Dirk FLOCK	22.05.72
15	Dieter FREY	31.10.72
39	Danny FUTTERER	28.08.75
18	Andreas HERZOG (Aut)	10.09.68
7	Yurii MAXIMOV (Ukr)	08.12.68
27	Alexander NOURI	20.08.79
2	Lodewijk ROEMBIAK (Hol)	18.05.69
38	Bjorn SCHIERENBECK	12.07.74
26	Timo SCHULTZ	26.08.77
28	Razundara TJIKUZU (Nam)	12.12.79

FORWARDS

32	AILTON Goncalves da Silva (Bra)	19.07.73
17	Marco BODE	23.07.69
9	Rade BOGDANOVIC (Yug)	21.05.70
22	Torsten FRINGS	22.11.76
21	Adrian KUNZ (Swi)	07.07.67
25	Soren SEIDEL	10.10.72
20	Dirk WEETENDORF	01.10.72

COACH

Thomas SCHAAF

WOLFSBURG

GOALKEEPERS

22	Holger HIEMANN	12.01.68
30	Guido KOLTERMANN	13.08.75
1	Claus REITMAIER	17.03.64

DEFENDERS

8	Holger BALLWANZ	07.09.67
13	Marino BILISKOV (Cro)	17.03.76
15	Peter KLEESCHATZKY	01.06.70
12	Waldemar KRYGER (Pol)	08.11.68
5	Brian O'NEIL (Sco)	06.09.72
6	Claus THOMSEN (Den)	31.05.70

MIDFIELDERS

24	Charles AKONNOR (Gha)	12.03.74
28	Christian BRAND	23.05.72
4	Nico DABRITZ	26.08.71
18	Detlev DAMMEIER	18.10.68
2	Frank GREINER	03.07.66
33	Marcel MALTRITZ	02.10.78
27	Nils MULLER	09.08.79
14	Dorinel MUNTEANU (Rom)	25.06.68
10	Krzysztof NOWAK (Pol)	27.09.75
26	Zoltan SEBESCEN	01.10.75
3	Mathias STAMMANN	08.05.68
7	Patrick WEISER	25.12.71

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19	Jonathan AKPOBORIE (Nig)	20.10.68
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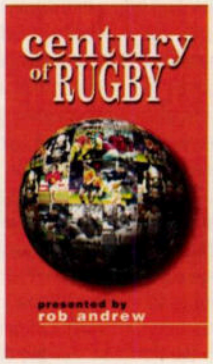

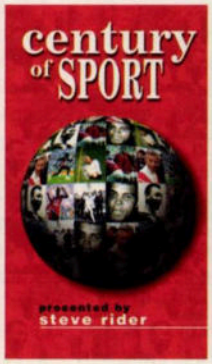

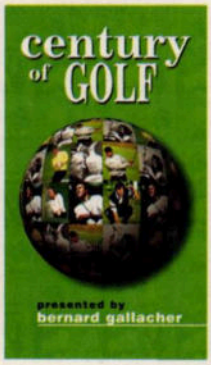

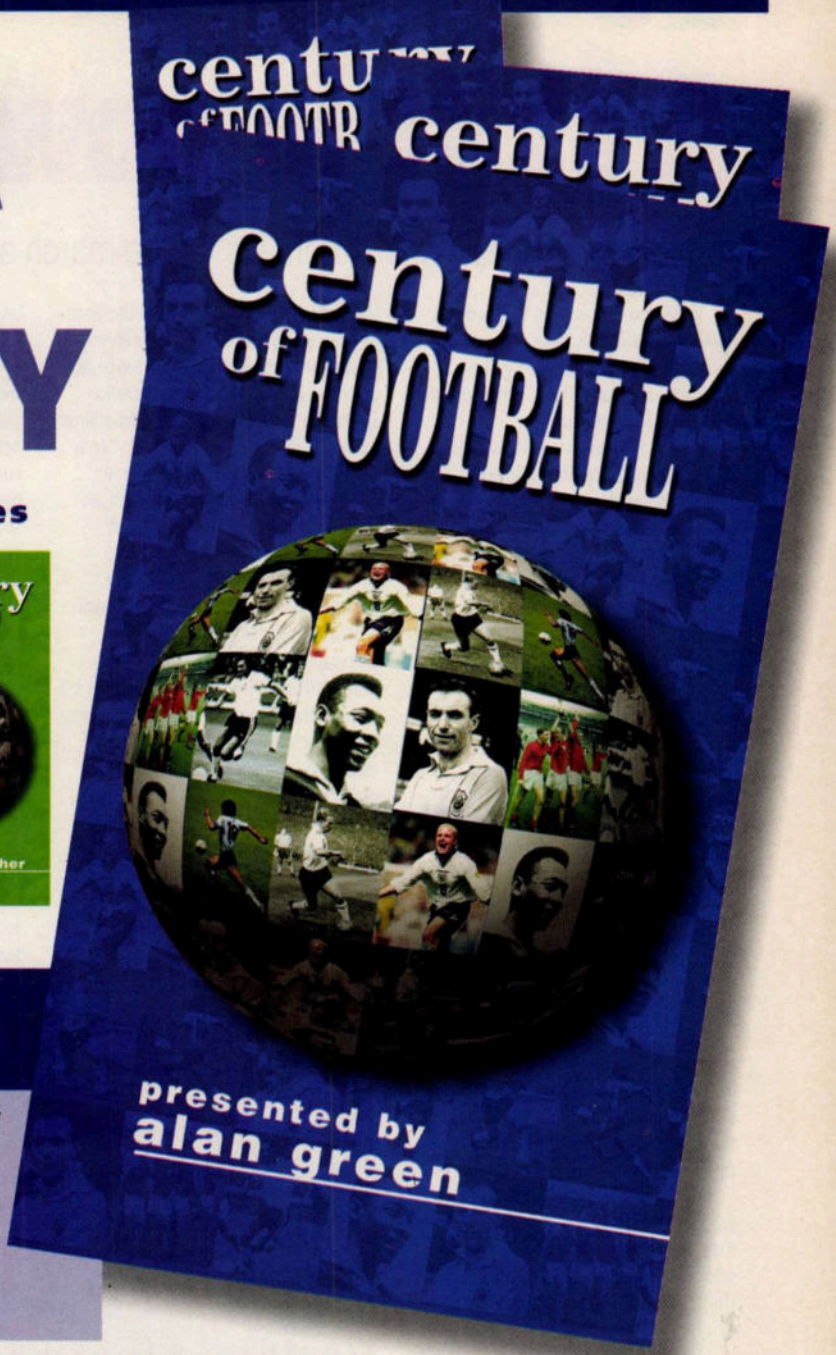

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A shift in power

Paddy Agnew sees signs of Romans on the march again

HAS the balance of footballing power finally begun to swing southwards again, shifting from its habitual Milan-Turin axis to the capital city, Rome?

That is the question Roma and Lazio fans have been anxiously asking themselves this autumn as their clubs have dominated the domestic stage, sharing the lead in the League with Juventus at the beginning of December.

While Lazio's good domestic and Champions League run has come as no surprise after their second-place finish in Serie A last season, not everyone would have predicted that Fabio Capello's new-look Roma would make such a bright start.

Further, not even the most ardent Roma fan could have predicted that when the two Roman clubs met in the first city derby, Roma would not only end Lazio's 16-match unbeaten run but also do it in such an emphatic fashion – defeating their rivals 4-1 having been 4-0 up in 31 minutes.

In recent seasons, the Rome derby has provided some remarkable football. The peculiar intensity with which the Eternal City's fans live out the match nearly always translates dramatically to the pitch.

Two seasons ago, Roma and Lazio met four times in League and Cup, and four times Lazio were the winners, in contests where Roma's then coach, Zdenek Zeman, refused to abandon his attacking football.

This time, however, Roma exacted their revenge in a humiliating defeat that could yet have a dramatic psychological and tactical impact on the rest of Lazio's season.

Put simply, Roma went into the game fired up and ready for action. Importantly, too, Capello revealed a devilish game-plan that was both simple and effective. His ploy was to hit Lazio early and to hit them with long passes. In other words, rather than take a careful pragmatic approach with a slow midfield build-up involving lots of square passing, Roma chose to hit 50- or 60-yard balls over the heads of both the Lazio midfield and defence.

Such passes dropped in neatly behind the flat, four-man Lazio defence, allowing Roma's international strikers, Marco Delvecchio and Vincenzo Montella, to make the most of their pace and send themselves clean through. Both scored twice and the next morning's *Corriere Dello Sport* ran with the following headline: "Solo La Roma" (Only Roma). "In a derby the like of which has never been seen, Roma took only half an hour to wipe out a non-existent Lazio," said the paper.

Although Lazio scored in the second half through a penalty from Sinisa Mihajlovic, there was no gainsaying the depth of their humiliation. When the players turned out for training next day at Formello, angry fans invaded the pitch and engaged in lively and colourful dialectics with several players.

More seriously, though, the extent of the psychological wounds inflicted by Roma became all too apparent in Lazio's next two competitive outings, against Marseille in the Champions League and against Juventus at the Olympic stadium.

Lazio stuttered their way through the first half-hour against the French side before they realised that their opponents were in even worse condition. At that point, and without much fuss, Lazio went forward to score two goals. Four days later it was immediately clear that even that win had not fully restored their confidence, and an unusually cautious Lazio risked little in a dull 0-0 draw against a more enterprising Juventus.

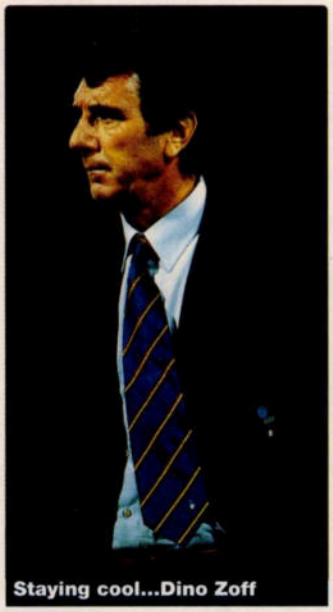
Lazio's affable coach, Sven Goran Eriksson, conceded that his side had opted for discretion rather than valour, commenting: "There's no point in denying it, after that defeat in the derby, we are not the brilliant side we were a month ago. In that context, I'm happy with this draw. At half-time, I was tempted to put on an extra striker and take off a midfielder but then I realised that this was not the moment to risk things and unbalance the side. We wanted to win, but it was more important not to lose." Who says Eriksson has not learned a lot in Italy?

While Lazio were left to their suddenly not-quite-so-rosy future, Roma opted to make hay while the sun shone by following up with a 1-0 UEFA Cup home win against Newcastle, and a 2-0 win at Udinese.

This latter victory represented not only Roma's fourth win in five away games but also put them joint top of the table with Juventus and Lazio.

Roma president and owner Franco Sensi seized that favourable moment to announce that he intends to float the club on the Italian stock exchange early in the New Year. Sensi hopes to increase Roma's capital to approximately £35million through the flotation. For the time being, Lazio remain the only publically-quoted Italian club.

Party time...Roma players descend on goalscorer Vincenzo Montella during the 4-1 defeat of Lazio



Staying cool...Dino Zoff

Zoff: There's still time to get in tune

WHILE things were going swimmingly for Roma, the same could hardly be said of Dino Zoff's Italy, last-gasp qualifiers for the Euro 2000 finals thanks to a dull 0-0 draw with Belarus in October, and then 3-1 losers in a friendly against Belgium in Lecce which proved a disaster in both commercial and footballing terms.

An estimated 10 million Italians tuned in to watch the match on TV, but more than two million had switched channels before the end, apparently preferring the joys of a Saturday night film to the torment of Zoff's men struggling.

Things did not go any better at the ground, with only 10,000 paying spectators turning up and most of those jeered the players off the pitch with chants of "mercenaries".

The Italian players chose to play down the significance of the crowd's disappointed reaction, with defender Fabio Cannavaro saying: "The fans shouldn't get upset. Mistakes happen in friendly games."

While the players can choose to treat the defeat and consequent negative public reaction from a certain philosophical distance, the Italian Football Federation cannot afford to be so detached.

With lucrative TV and sponsorship contracts linked to the national team's performances, the federation will want both a full house and a better result for Italy's next pre-Euro 2000 friendly, at home to Sweden on February 23.

Typically, Zoff refused to be overly worried, despite the fact that Italy's previous home match, in Naples in September, ended in a 3-2 defeat by Denmark. Not since facing Norway and West Germany in November 1985 and February 1986 respectively had the national team lost two consecutive home games. However, that side were forgiven because they were the reigning world champions.

Zoff commented after the Belgium game: "I don't think we played all that badly. They had three shots on goal and scored three times. Our biggest problem was that we failed to take our chances."

In truth, Belgium were flattered by the score. Italy played most of the football but Belgium looked the more solid, organised and confident. For the time being, Zoff is under no particular pressure, but unless his side begin to perform more convincingly in the run-in to the Euro finals, his selections and tactics are sure to come under severe scrutiny.

The defeat by Belgium seems to suggest at least three conclusions about the Zoff-era Italy. Firstly, the current generation of players lacks quality in depth and if, as against Belgium, automatic selections such as Christian Vieri in attack and Alessandro Nesta and Paolo Maldini in defence are ruled out, then Italy are in trouble.

Secondly, Zoff gives the impression of being unconvinced by any line-up other than the 4-4-2 he has used, effectively too, for all his coaching career with both Juventus and Lazio.

Thirdly, and this relates in part to the second consideration, if Roma's talented schemer Francesco Totti (see profile, right) is ever to blossom in the national team, then space must be found for him in a playmaking role rather than being tied to a left or right-sided midfield berth.

Without Nesta and Maldini, the Italian defence proved embarrassing against Belgium, conceding simple goals to Gilles De Bilde and Marc Wilmots. Without Vieri, the attack of Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi proved both lightweight and inconclusive. With Totti unsure what position to take up, the midfield conceded both ball and space to Belgium while at the same time proving only sporadically creative.

Despite all that, Zoff said: "We have six months to tune the team. There is still time." Rather than tuning, perhaps Italy could do with a fully-fit Maldini-Nesta-Vieri trio.

Paddy Agnew

Pro-file Francesco Totti

Season to deliver for the great young hope?

AT 23 years of age, Francesco Totti is nothing less than the great young hope of Italian soccer, the pretender to a throne graced by such as Gianni Rivera, Sandro Mazzola and Giancarlo Antognoni.

This season, too, could be expected to be a year when that promise finally translates into results, both with his club, Roma, and Italy at next summer's Euro 2000 finals.

Despite his youth, Totti is a vastly experienced player, now in his eighth Serie A season. For him, the time has come, as has, perhaps, the perfect coach, in the shape of Fabio Capello, who took over at Roma last summer.

Capello has never made any secret of his enthusiasm for Totti's inventive genius, and has backed his opinion by building the side around him. Unlike previous coaches such as Zdenek Zeman, Carlos Bianchi, Carlo Mazzone and Ottavio Bianchi, all of whom insisted on using Totti as a striker, Capello plays him in his natural role, that of playmaker behind strikers Vincenzo Montella and Marco Delvecchio.

The results have been there for all to see as Totti has blossomed during Roma's best autumn for nearly 15 years. He is undoubtedly extremely gifted, showing excellent vision coupled with the ability to hit an accurate long pass. He has terrific close control and dribbling skills, is formidable with free-kicks, and a regular goalscorer, with 39 in 156 Serie A games up to the end of November.

This season, then, could prove to be a watershed in Totti's career. If Roma continue in their present vein, they look unlikely to come away from it empty-handed. As for Italy, if nine-times-capped Totti grows into the midfielder-playmaker role that national coach Dino Zoff seems to be preparing for him, then Euro 2000 could represent a definitive consecration.

Intriguingly, too, Totti has indicated that he feels the time has come to win something. He caused a huge stir in mid-November by uttering the heretical thought that he might consider moving to another club if Roma continued to be perennial losers.

Totti said that he did not want to end up like recently-retired former Roma captain Giuseppe Giannini, who spent 17 seasons with the club without winning a European trophy, let alone the League title.

"My current contract runs through to 2003," said Totti. "I might renew it for 10 years or I might leave. At the moment, nobody can say which way it will end because it's not a question of money.

"I want to win something because when your career is over, the greatest satisfaction is to look back on the League titles and cups you've won."

Paddy Agnew

Fact file

Club Roma
Country Italy
Born September 27, 1976, in Rome
International debut October 1998, v Switzerland
International caps 9 (0 gls)

A win - then Toshack walks

Keir Radnedge on the departure of yet another Real Madrid coach

COACHES and managers can expect the sack after a defeat. The two go together. To get the sack after a victory, however, requires special talent – the sort of talent displayed by, for example, John Toshack in the last days in his bunker at Real Madrid.

The last straw was Madrid's 3-2 away win over League-leading minnow neighbours Rayo Vallecano.

"The way we came back from 2-0 down with only 10 men says everything about the enormous spirit within the dressing-room," said Toshack. "It wasn't perfect but this match was all about the result. It's not always about classy football to show off to the crowd."

If that was all Toshack had said, it would have been fine. It was not.

In the end everything rested on the blunders by young Argentinian goalkeeper Albano Bizarri which handed Rayo a 2-0 half-time lead, with goals from Jordi Ferron and Manuel Canabal. One minute into the second half Fernando Morientes pulled a goal back after a defence-splitting pass from skipper Fernando Hierro.

Madrid's hopes dived again when Morientes was sent off in the 58th minute for dissent after Raul had a penalty appeal turned down. Then, with their backs to the wall, they played their most effective football of the night. Raul had a goal disallowed by a fractional offside decision on the hour, then won a penalty which Hierro fired decisively past Keller for the equaliser.

Toshack, booked early for dissent, appeared satisfied with a point as he

Shielding it...Clarence Seedorf (left) during the defeat of Rayo which sealed John Toshack's fate

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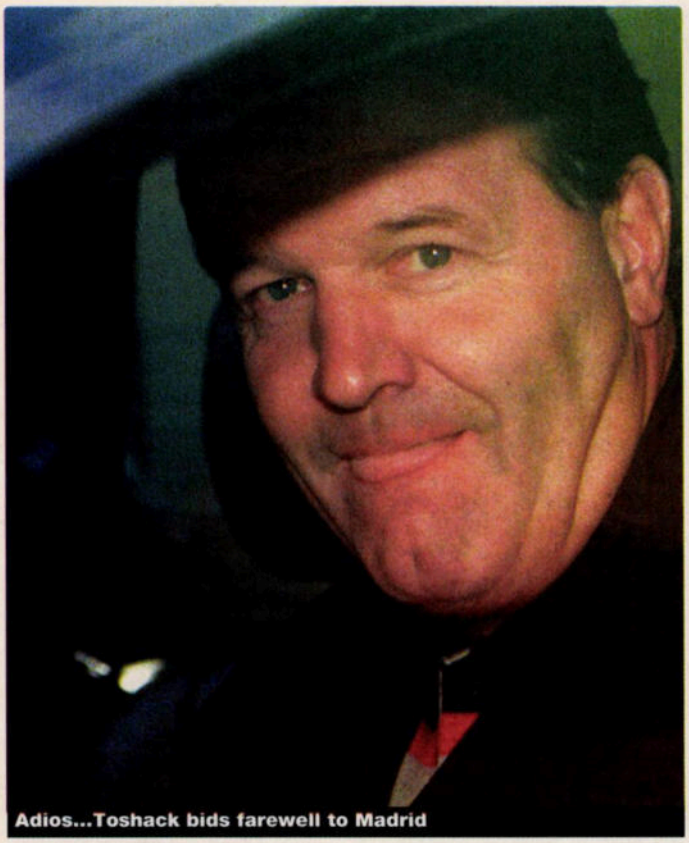


Adios...Toshack bids farewell to Madrid

sent on defender Manuel Sanchis in place of England midfielder Steve McManaman. But his own players had other ideas about the outcome.

Even the departure of the inspirational but injured Hierro could not crush their determination to rout the critics. Six minutes remained when Raul scored a wonderful goal to bring Madrid their first League victory in eight games.

Toshack, while acknowledging his players' grit, was especially critical of Bizarri and of the goalkeeper coaching set-up at the club.

Innocent remarks, maybe, but they sent president Lorenzo Sanz into a fury. He ordered Toshack to retract, but the Welshman famously replied that "pigs will fly over Bernabeu before I take back what I said".

A few hours later Toshack was gone, succeeded in a caretaker role by long-time coaching aide Vicente Del Bosque and with Jorge Valdano the favourite to pick up the poisoned chalice long-term – or, at least, however many weeks or months counts as 'long' at Bernabeu right now.

Del Bosque's first outing ended in a 1-1 home draw against Real Sociedad, during which young midfielder Guti was sent off. His second game in charge was a 1-0 defeat by title-chasing Celta Vigo, and his third a humiliating 5-1 home thrashing by a not-particularly-wonderful Zaragoza.

It was historic stuff. After all, the last time Madrid had conceded five goals at home was when they crashed 5-0 to a Cruyff-inspired Barcelona while General Franco was still in power.

Zaragoza had managed only one win and scored three goals in their six previous away games, which says everything about the fragile state of Real football. Now Zaragoza are the latest of the smaller clubs to enjoy their 15 days of fame. At the start of the season it was Rayo – until that defeat by Real punctured their balloon – then it was Santander with the early-season top scorer Salva, and lately, apart from Zaragoza, it has been promoted Numancia under the guidance of Andoni Goikoetxea, notorious in his playing days as the Butcher of Bilbao.

At the top of the table Deportivo La Coruna and Celta Vigo have enjoyed the altitude while the giants have struggled and stuttered. Not only Real Madrid. Even champions Barcelona fumbled their way to four defeats in November, providing an unhappy way in which to celebrate, on November 29, the club's exact centenary.

Not that coach Louis Van Gaal need worry. He has just signed a contract extension which should make him the best-paid coach in the world.

Pro-file Salva

Racing man who's been galloping ahead on goals

MOST people expected Raul and Rivaldo to start this season as they finished last – leading the Spanish scorers' chart. Instead, the top man during autumn, to general surprise, was Racing Santander's Salva.

The world knows little about Salvador Ballesta Vialco, to give him his full name, but that may change, especially if his goal spree continues.

Salva was born in Zaragoza 24 years ago, but was brought up in Seville. He stood out in the Sevilla youth team as a tall and powerful striker with a deadly left foot, and made his First Division debut in 1995, alongside Davor Suker. Sevilla then farmed him out to Third Division Ecija for a year.

The young forward returned to Sevilla for the 1996-97 season and formed a useful partnership with Jose Mari, scoring 13 times. But the defence was not as effective as the attack and the club were relegated.

Although Salva stayed on, injury wrecked his 1997-98 season, and without his goals Sevilla failed to make a quick return to the top flight.

In June 1998 he was sold to Racing, but found the club's first-choice strikers Vladimir Beschastnykh and Pedro Munitis difficult men to dislodge. Salva finally got his chance this August when Beschastnykh was injured, and took it, scoring from a penalty in the surprising opening day win in Valencia.

As August went on, he powered his way to the top of the scorers' chart, and stayed there until finally toppled by Zaragoza's Savo Milosevic in early December. The finest moment of Salva's career came in San Sebastian in October, when he tore apart the stunned Real Sociedad defence with four goals in a 23-minute second-half burst. Salva's next victims were high-flying Celta Vigo, just three nights later. A first-half hat-trick destroyed Victor Fernandez's attractive team and won him more rave reviews.

Salva went on to score 14 goals in the first 11 matches, a tally that many thought would earn him a call-up to the national squad for the high-profile friendlies against Brazil and Argentina. The call didn't come, which was a shame because the team's feeble attack – not a goal in either match – could have done with Salva's aggression and enthusiasm.

"I wasn't disappointed, really," he says. "Of course, I'd love to play for Spain one day but there's plenty of time."

There have been several stories about big-club interest in Salva, but he is wisely keeping his feet on the ground. "My aim is to help Racing stay above the danger zone. We are playing some lovely football this season, thanks to coach Gustavo Benitez's philosophy. I'm under contract here until 2003. I just want to carry on scoring, nothing else really matters to me right now."

Duncan Shaw

Fact file

Club Racing Santander
Country Spain
Born May 22, 1975, in Zaragoza
Previous clubs Sevilla, Ecija

FRANCE

Renewed cause for optimism

Andre Duclos on an encouraging result for *Les Bleus*

THINGS are looking up. Winning 3-0 against a not wholly switched-on Croatian team may not have been a major triumph for France, but it did give cause for optimism at last, with the European Championship finals in view.

Battling...Asanovic and Thuram

As national coach Roger Lemerre said, it was good to see all three goals scored by actual forwards. Even if one of them was not the star-crossed Stephane Guivarc'h, given yet another chance now that he is back in France with Auxerre, but still with only a single goal in 14 appearances for the national side.

Tony Vairelles, who cost Lyon a lot of money when he joined them in the close season from Lens, was one of the scorers. Vairelles replaced Robert Pires, back in midfield having settled well at Marseille, after 62 minutes and scored the third goal 10 minutes later.

Pires opened the scoring a couple of minutes after half-time, and the second went to Florian Maurice, his Marseille team-mate.

You cannot be too hard on Guivarc'h, even if he seems a little lucky to be recalled after his disappointing World Cup. As Lemerre said, he was then left up front on his own, which is something the coach thinks will not happen in the future.

But the question remains – does the future still belong to Nicolas Anelka? It is plain that for all the useful efforts of Maurice, Vairelles and co, they are unlikely to solve the pressing problem of finding a successful striker.

Anelka has shown that, potentially, he is the man. But it is clearer than ever now that he has listened to bad advice from his two brothers and their entourage, joining Real Madrid where he has had the most unhappy of starts, even to the point where Real allegedly wanted to lend him to Lazio.

How Arsenal must be laughing. They snatched him from Paris Saint-Germain, taking full advantage of the complex ambiguities of post-Bosman laws, made an ex gratia payment of a mere £500,000, then sold him for £23million!

Meanwhile, another Arsenal player, Patrick Vieira, whatever his endless disciplinary troubles in England, did himself proud in the Croatia game. Previously it was felt he had never truly reproduced his English form for France, but against Croatia things at last came into focus.

"I'm happy with my performance," he said. "It was certainly my best match for France. I didn't hesitate to be adventurous and take risks, as I do with my club…I was extremely motivated."

This was a good chance for Vieira to establish himself as a serious candidate for a regular midfield place. His club-mate Emmanuel Petit was absent, not fully fit, and Didier Deschamps was kept on the bench until the closing minutes.

"I had to show that I have the capability," said Vieira – which he surely did, his performance including a shot against a post and the pass which gave Vairelles his goal. "It's

GERMANY

Lehmann to the rescue

Keir Radnedge reports on a keeper who kept his boss in a job

JENS LEHMANN has never played a match like it. Not only did his extraordinary end-to-end display against Rangers secure Borussia Dortmund's progress to the UEFA Cup quarter-finals, but it also helped to keep coach Michael Skibbe in a job.

At the end of the penalty shoot-out Dortmund players chaired Skibbe from the pitch. It should have been Skibbe carrying Lehmann.

Dortmund had been lucky to lose only 2-0 in the first leg of their third-round tie between two Champions League failures. In the second leg, Rangers paid for their complacency, giving a first-half goal to Victor Ikpeba, but they appeared to be hanging on despite the second-half Dortmund barrage.

Then, in overtime, Lehmann loped forward to join the attack. As a hopeful cross sailed in he hacked at the ball and miscued it but, fortunately, pushed it towards Fredi Bobic, who equalised. Extra time did not produce any further goals and the stage was set for the shoot-out, in which Lehmann saved superbly from Van Bronckhorst, Numan and Reyna, to take Dortmund through 3-1 on penalties.

Skibbe's contract was duly extended, with president Gerd Niebaum saying: "We are convinced that he is the right man to regain for this club the successes of the 1990s."

Skibbe, at 32, was the youngest boss in the Bundesliga when he was appointed in succession to Bayern Munich-bound Ottmar Hitzfeld two years ago.

As for Lehmann, his spirited display will have stepped up the pressure on national team goalkeeping rival Oliver Kahn, whose confidence has not been helped by a bout of concussion, then by Bayern's erratic form.

One day they are winning comfortably in the Champions League. the next they are losing to city rivals 1860 Munich for the first time in 22 years.

Thomas Riedl's 25-yard drive, five minutes from the end, condemned Bayern to their third beating in 13 League games.

"Every defeat is disappointing," said Hitzfeld. "We were in control for 25 minutes but let ourselves get frustrated by shots hitting the bar. We didn't have any fight left at the end."

The 1860 coach, Werner Lorant, watched from the stands after being banned from the touchline for insulting an assistant referee.

Defeat made Bayern officials all the more determined to try to persuade veteran sweeper Lothar Matthaus to delay his transfer to NY/NJ MetroStars until the end of the season.

Versatile defender Thomas Strunz is out for the rest of the season, while Jens Jeremies was banned for five European club ties after being sent off against PSV.

Matthaus owes a debt to Bayern – he has never forgotten that the club brought him home from Inter in 1991-92 when he was still convalescing after a serious knee injury, and uncertain what the future might hold.

Now he has the chance to make a world record 145th international appearance, against Holland in Amsterdam on February 23.

Leverkusen and Hamburg are chasing Bayern, with Leverkusen's

true that, given the competition, Patrick hasn't had many chances to express himself with us," said Lemerre. "This evening, he responded to my hopes."

Like Vieira, 26-year-old Johan Micoud used to play for Cannes, his home-town club. He, too, seemed at last to have settled into form with *Les Bleus*, and was involved in setting up the first two goals against Croatia.

A huge fee brought Sonny Anderson back to the French League, with Lyon, from Barcelona during the close season, and he regained his place in the Brazil attack for the recent friendly in Spain.

Anderson recently scored twice for his club in their 3-0 home win over Le Havre. That result put Lyon ahead of Auxerre at the top of the League after Guy Roux's team surprisingly crashed 3-1 at Nantes, who previously had been doing well in the UEFA Cup, but struggled in the championship.

Promoted Troyes are fighting hard not to go straight back down, and none harder than Sladjan Djukic.

The veteran Yugoslav midfielder had previously played only Second Division football in France, beginning with Lorient, then spending two years with Brest, before moving to Troyes in 1997. Last season he was dedicated to attack, and he was their leading scorer with 12 goals.

Will 31-year-old Xavier Gravelaine cut it in England, at Watford? It seems a strange place to go for the former Paris Saint-Germain striker, who also played for half a dozen other leading clubs and was in his second spell at PSG. We'll see.

Casoni in, Courbis out

MARSEILLE have appointed Bernard Casoni in place of Rolland Courbis, who quit as coach after the 2-0 home defeat by Lazio in the Champions League.

Casoni, a Marseille player during the Bernard Tapie years, has coached the club's reserve and youth teams since ending his playing career in 1991.

Courbis bowed to growing pressure to quit after a string of poor results in domestic and European competition.

"I'm tired. I need a rest," he said. "These past five months have been the worst of my career.

"Casoni is the best solution," said Courbis of his successor. "He knows the club and players well. I regret not having been able to do better."

Face-saver...Bobic equalises for Dortmund against Rangers

League form unaffected by their Champions League exit. They pulled level on points after beating Werder Bremen 3-2, with the decisive goal coming from Brazilian midfielder Emerson. Leverkusen skipper Jens Nowotny calls him "the best midfield player in the world" – which explains why the club are resisting multi-million pound offers to sell him to Italy during the mid-winter transfer window.

Not only that, but Leverkusen have told Champions League contenders Hertha Berlin that they must wait until the end of the season to sign midfielder Stefan Beinlich.

Hamburg, fired in attack by a reviving Tony Yeboah, are just behind Leverkusen. The Ghanaian scored a hat-trick as Hamburg thrashed Arminia Bielefeld 5-0, a margin restricted by brilliant goalkeeping from George Koch.

Pro-file Emerson

Italy beckons for Brazilian midfield master

WHETHER during the Bundesliga winter break or at the end of this season, it is an open secret in Germany that time will shortly be called on the successful association of Bayer Leverkusen and their highly influential Brazilian midfielder Emerson.

Leverkusen's management have been making all the right noises, insisting that Emerson, who joined the club from Gremio of Porto Alegre in June 1997, will stay with them until his contract runs out in June 2001. But the truth is that he is on his way to Serie A, and Bayer will have to content themselves with an expected transfer fee in the region of £13million.

The only remaining question concerns where in Italy Emerson – full name Emerson Ferreira da Rosa – will go. Milan see him as the man to provide them with some much-needed creativity, while Lazio and Inter are admirers, too. But it is Roma who have the fiercest craving and must be favourites to win his signature. Both president Franco Sensi and coach Fabio Capello have waxed lyrically about Emerson for the past few months, and with a five-man Brazilian welcoming committee already at the club – Cafu, Aldair, Zago, Marcos Assuncao and Fabio Junior – the new boy would certainly have no feelings of alienation.

Few days pass in Germany without some speculation about Emerson's future. Yet, to his great credit, he has shown no signs of being distracted from his game. Indeed, he has easily been Leverkusen's most impressive player this season.

Coach Christoph Daum is not exaggerating when he claims Emerson is all things to all football men, the ideal all-rounder. During the course of 90 minutes, he appears as the classic playmaker, the elegant, elusive dribbler, and the tough-tackling ball-winner. Certainly, he possesses abundant stamina and strength. Many at Leverkusen were concerned he would be jaded after spending the summer helping Brazil win the Copa America and taking part in the Confederations Cup in Mexico. But, in fact, he is playing better than ever.

"I'm totally satisfied with the way my career is developing," says Emerson. "I was called into Brazil's squad for the last World Cup at the last moment when Romario was injured, and I appeared just twice in France, as a substitute. But now I'm really at the heart of the *selecao* and I even skippered Brazil at the Confederations Cup.

"I've never been so motivated to improve my game and I feel I'm gaining the benefits."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
Country Brazil
Born April 4, 1976, in Porto Alegre
Previous clubs Botafogo, Gremio
International debut September 1997, v Ecuador
International caps 25 (3 gls)
Honours Copa America 1999; Brazilian national championship 1996 (Gremio)

United keep Keane

...and Gavin Hamilton forecasts a rush of salary claims at Old Trafford

AFTER months of protracted negotiations, Manchester United finally reached agreement with captain Roy Keane over a new contract.

For Keane, the deal, negotiated by his agent/lawyer Michael Kennedy, made him the highest-paid footballer in England. For United, it solved one pressing problem but created many more. The board now are likely to face demands from David Beckham, Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes to match Keane's new wage packet, reportedly £50,000 a week.

Keane's existing deal at United runs out this summer. From January 1, he would have been free to sign a pre-contract with one of a number of Italian and Spanish clubs who had expressed an interest in signing him on a free transfer.

The Irish international's winning goal in the World Club Cup game in Tokyo will have strengthened his bargaining hand yet further, and the United board – who answer to the plc shareholders – finally gave in to Keane's demands.

Golden goal...Keane slots home the World Club Cup winner

The offer effectively shattered the wage limit at Old Trafford, and represented a victory for manager Alex Ferguson in his battle with the board over player wages.

The strict pay structure at the club has long caused friction between Ferguson and United chairman Martin Edwards. Ferguson is known to have expressed frustration at the club's inability to attract the world's best players – Marcelo Salas, Gabriel Batistuta and Rivaldo to name but three.

The irony of Batistuta scoring for Fiorentina against United in the Champions League will not have been lost on Ferguson, especially as it came in a month when the European champions were named – quite laughably – as the richest club in the world.

The survey by a publicity-hungry firm of accountants found United, with their vast global merchandising operation, to have the largest annual turnover of any club.

Had the survey, which named Real Madrid (estimated debts £100million and rising) as the second richest club, included TV income, then United would have been lucky to make the top 10.

The simple fact remains that if United were the richest club in the world, they would employ the best players. Instead they won the European Cup with a team which owed a great deal to the club's youth system (Beckham, Giggs, Scholes, Butt, the Nevilles) and the manager's prowess in the transfer market (Schmeichel, Solskjaer, Sheringham, Stam).

The challenge now facing United is to compete with the likes of Lazio, Inter and Barcelona in the European transfer market. The fact that Beckham, Giggs and Scholes are out of contract in 2002 will not have escaped the attention of Italian and Spanish clubs. Many have been buoyed up by huge pay-TV deals that make United's share of the Premier League's BSkyB contract look minuscule in comparison.

Now that Old Trafford's wage ceiling has been broken, the United board would seem to have little option but to reward the claims of Beckham and Co. That's if they can find the money, of course.

Manchester United remained among the Premier League front-runners, despite their travels to Europe and Tokyo. In one weekend at the start of December, the lead changed hands three times – between Arsenal, United and Leeds – and the title race could be one of the most open for a number of years.

Not far behind these three at press time were Sunderland and Liverpool, but Chelsea's Premiership chances appear to have been ended by a string of poor away performances. The most notable of these came at Sunderland, where Peter Reid's side avenged their opening-day defeat at Stamford Bridge with a blistering 4-1 win.

Gianluca Vialli's main hope of qualifying for next season's Champions League is now to win the Final in Paris in May.

But for the addition of Stefan Schwarz and Steve Bould, and the loss of Lee Clark and Allan Johnston, Sunderland have largely the same team that won the First Division title last season. The key to their success has been the ability of strikers Kevin Phillips and Niall Quinn to transfer their goalscoring prowess to the top flight. Both scored twice in a remarkable first-half demolition of Chelsea.

At Liverpool, Gerard Houllier has at last bedded in his many new arrivals, and is starting to achieve more consistency. Like Sunderland, Liverpool do not have the distraction of European competition.

Things are getting interesting.

SCOTLAND

Wembley win not quite enough

GLORIOUS FAILURE is a phrase that has become synonymous with the Scottish national side over the years.

Supporters from several generations will recount tales of how the team just failed to make that final step towards success and achievement.

The current crop of Scotland followers experienced the latest instalment in that depressing series when a superb performance at Wembley fell marginally short of the level required to overcome traditional rivals England in the two-leg play-off for qualification to Euro 2000.

The tie was effectively lost during the first leg at Hampden Park, when defensive frailty permitted Paul Scholes to strike twice and give England a comfortable lead to take into the return.

But Scotland, as always, reacted well to adversity and produced an inspirational performance at Wembley four days later, reducing the deficit with a goal from Don Hutchison and then being denied an aggregate equaliser by a magnificent reaction save by David Seaman from Christian Dailly's close-range header.

Rebuilding is the immediate priority with the likes of Colin Hendry and Kevin Gallacher now likely to make way for younger players.

John Collins, who at Wembley produced arguably his finest performance for Scotland, has already announced his international retirement, giving national coach Craig Brown the opportunity to offer Rangers' Barry Ferguson a greater level of responsibility.

Other youngsters such as Celtic's Mark Burchill, Hibernian's Kenny Miller and Newcastle's Stephen Glass are expected to form the basis for Brown's long-term planning.

On the domestic front, Celtic continue to lag behind Rangers, and came off worst in the first Old Firm derby of the season, going down 4-2.

That result was followed by the first indication of self-doubt from the hitherto supremely confident Celtic head coach John Barnes, who admitted that Dick Advocaat's Rangers were in a more advanced stage of development than his own.

Rangers lost their first League game of the season when they were beaten by Dundee at Ibrox, but Celtic failed to capitalise when they lost to Motherwell a few hours later.

Rangers revels...Jonatan Johansson scores against Celtic

Such uncharacteristic lapses are raising questions about Barnes. Has he the players' confidence and are they prepared to work for him?

Alan Fairley

WALES

Inter crippled by player walk-out

INTER CARDIFF are at crisis point after the management team and players walked out of the cash-strapped club.

The match against Llanelli was postponed, but Inter officials are confident that they can at least complete the season. As a stop-gap measure they signed an entire team from the University of Wales Institute for a Cup tie and gained a creditable 1-1 draw against second-placed Cwmbran Town.

Cwmbran are pressuring Barry for top spot and third-placed Total Network Solutions have added to their strikeforce with the signing of John Toner from Conwy United and Nicky Ward from Newtown.

Early pace-setters Carmarthen Town have lost some form and slipped to fourth, but the return after suspension of defender Dave Barnhouse should help them get back on track.

Haverfordwest County remain rooted to the bottom, without a win in 13 outings. They were also dumped out of the Welsh Cup by Third Division Halkyn United.

Mark Hughes has accepted a contract to be national team manager for the next four and a half years, the first 18 months on a part-time basis while he ends his playing career with Southampton.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Linfield starting to pull away

WITH the season approaching half-way, stylish Linfield have succeeded in opening a gap at the top of the Premier Division.

They created a League record of 14 successive games without defeat when they beat Portadown 3-1 at Windsor Park.

Would-be challengers Glenavon seem to have run out of steam, and a home defeat by Cliftonville on the day Linfield set their record certainly dented morale.

The two Premier clubs with new managers have found the change to be beneficial. Marty Quinn, who moved from Cliftonville to Coleraine, has seen his team climb the table with a fine run, while Quinn's former club, under ex-Cliftonville player Laurence Stitt, appeared to be turning a corner following a poor start.

Promoted Lisburn Distillery are in danger of slipping back into the First Division, although Paul Kirk and his players, now including Scotsman Kevin Bates from Dungannon Swifts, ended a run of eight defeats with a last-minute 2-1 victory away to Crusaders and a 1-1 draw at home to Glenavon.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Harry Kewell

Aussie caught in the middle of a tug-of-war

THE importance of FIFA president Sepp Blatter's plans to synchronise the football calendar around the world was emphasised by Leeds United's recent dispute with Soccer Australia over midfielder Harry Kewell.

With Leeds challenging for the Premiership title, manager David O'Leary initially refused to release Aussie Kewell for two internationals on the other side of the world, even though Brazil were the opponents.

Soccer Australia and the national coach, Frank Farina, predictably had a different view on the issue.

"This is getting beyond a joke," Farina complained as Kewell pulled out of the two games citing one of those calf injuries that often afflict players around the time of friendly internationals. All this after O'Leary had appeared to compromise and allow Kewell to play in one of the Brazil games.

Soccer Australia then called in FIFA, who invoked their five-day rule, which meant that Leeds could not select Kewell for their Premiership fixture against Bradford City.

It was all very messy, but the dispute was hardly surprising given that O'Leary considers the 21-year-old to be one of the jewels in his glistening crown and far too valuable to lose mid-season to play in friendlies thousands of miles away.

"Harry is a great young player and this Australia situation needs to be resolved because it is not good for Leeds or the player," says O'Leary. "He is a vital part of my team and has been in great form this season. We are lucky to have a player of his talent and he needs to be protected from playing too many games at such a young age."

Kewell is a goalscoring midfielder, regarded as one of the finest link players in the Premiership and providing more than he scores. He does not often give interviews but has stated that he is still desperate to represent his country, despite the current turmoil.

"I am committed to playing for Australia and determined to have a real go at winning the Olympic title," he told an Australian newspaper. "I just hope that what happened over the Brazil games will not work against me in the long run."

But with Soccer Australia viewing Kewell as the linchpin of their bid to land Olympic gold on home soil next summer, and pre-tournament games planned, their disputes with Leeds seem far from over.

Kevin Palmer

Fact file

Club Leeds United (Eng)
Country Australia
Born September 22, 1978, in Sydney
International debut April 1996, v Chile
International caps 9 (3 gls)

Defeat sparks revolt

Alberto da Silva reports from Lisbon on the latest crisis engulfing Benfica

PORTUGAL

BENFICA's 7-0 defeat away to Celta Vigo in the first leg of their UEFA Cup third round tie provoked a tumultuous reaction among supporters of the club abroad as well as at home.

On their return from Spain, the players and officials had to suffer demonstrations from angry fans, although the coach, Jupp Heynckes, was spared the worst of the insults. Everybody knew that the German, for all his experience, cannot make an omelette without eggs.

Heynckes ordered the gates to be opened when the players next reported for training, so that people could watch how they worked and the methods employed by the coaching staff. Thousands turned up, and again made their feelings felt.

The irony is that the fans revolted at a time when their club was leading the domestic title race. Much of the criticism has been directed at former chairman Manuel Damasio, during whose reign Benfica come close to bankruptcy. This made the task of Damasio's successor, Vale e Azevedo, all the harder.

The new man's first task was to make the club financially secure again, but while he is doing this, there is no money for decent new signings.

Yet the devoted deserved better than they got at Vigo. They were badly let down by the team in general, and by two defenders in particular: Paulo Madeira, who cannot tackle, and a Brazilian called Ronaldo, who lacks pace.

After the Vigo disaster, Benfica lost 3-1 away to Alverca, and then came a visit to Porto. This resulted in another defeat, which meant that Benfica, although still top, were only one point clear of their hosts.

Piling on the agony...Celta's Mostovoi scores against Benfica

HOLLAND

Koeman move causes controversy

HARDLY had Ronald Koeman accepted an offer to coach Vitesse Arnhem than he was advised to turn the job down.

Dutch FA instructor Ben Crum, who guided former international Koeman to achieve the necessary coaching qualifications not so long ago, said that Koeman "is much too polite and too inexperienced" to run Vitesse. According to Crum, the club's powerful chairman, Karel Aalbers, is "too slick for a well-behaved man" like Koeman.

Crum also described the assistant coaches, Jan Jongbloed and Edward Sturing, as "figure-heads" for Aalbers.

Vitesse were furious about the comments and Crum was suspended by the Dutch FA.

Until now Koeman has been happy in his job as Louis Van Gaal's assistant at Barcelona, working at his favourite club and in his favourite city, but the desire to become a head coach made the difference.

At Vitesse, Koeman succeeded Herbert Neumann, a German who had a troubled relationship with several players. He was fired after the club's 4-1 defeat by Lens in the UEFA Cup.

One of Crum's other students, national coach Frank Rijkaard, remains under fire. Against the Czech Republic he collected his 10th consecutive draw (1-1), and to make things worse, there was some fierce criticism from His Master's Voice, Johan Cruyff.

"I trained nearly all those players and taught them everything. But hardly anything is left of it. What has happened?" Cruyff asked. Some are suggesting that a supervisor be appointed to guide Rijkaard, but Van Gaal, the most likely candidate, has condemned the idea, saying: "Give Rijkaard time and respect."

Feyenoord are the only Dutch survivors in the Champions League. Five consecutive draws and a 1-0 win in their last match, against Rosenborg, proved to be enough to reach the second round.

But the happy faces in Rotterdam soon disappeared when Jean-Paul Van Gastel and Bert Konterman made some critical comments on Feyenoord's policy in a magazine.

Both said they were disappointed at the club's lack of progress and declared that they wanted to leave in the near future. Coach Leo Beenhakker said he felt betrayed by this criticism and fined the players a record amount of £7,400.

Nevertheless, both men played against PSV in a game that was vital to prolonging Feyenoord's title hopes, and it was a penalty from Van Gastel that brought the Rotterdam club a 1-0 victory. However, this, too, was controversial because Jon Dahl Tomasson was clearly offside before his shot was handled in the box by PSV defender Yuri Nikiforov.

Second Division club FC Volendam are facing bankruptcy, unable to find an investor.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

BELGIUM

Lucky 13 for Geel

THE embarrassing prospect of being relegated as total failures after just one season among the elite must have been entering the minds of players and officials at Geel. But the promoted club duly celebrated their first win on a night when it was possibly least expected.

Game number 13 looked a tough one. Title contenders Lierse were the visitors and when the 20-year-old Jurgen Cavens drove them into a 29th-minute lead, the outcome looked a formality.

Geel, however, eventually punished the 1997 champions for their growing complacency with two fierce shots midway through the second half. Bjorn Daelemans hit the first before the Icelander Gudmond

Beating Italy...Mbo Mpenza

Benediktsson crowned an impressive debut by scoring the winner.

Neither of the bottom two had won a game up to then. Beveren, the only club worse off than Geel, had to wait until the last Saturday in November before two goals from Dutch striker Remco Torken brought them a 2-0 win at St Truiden, whose place among the elite is looking vulnerable.

They have dispensed with their coach, Poll Peters, and hired Willy Reynders, less than three months since his dismissal by Lokeren, who never came to terms with the sale of Jan Koller to Anderlecht.

With Koller in attack and under the perceptive coaching of Aime Anthuenis, Anderlecht had taken on a look of invincibility at home – until Genk arrived at Parc Astrid with much to prove. Koller duly collected his seventh goal of the season but by then the highly-motivated visitors, who have retained the bulk of the side that Anthuenis coached to the title last season, were well on the way to a 3-1 victory.

On the international front, history was made when Belgium won 3-1 in Lecce to gain their first away win over Italy. The Italians may have been lacking motivation, but, nevertheless, it was a resounding success for Robert Waseige's side, who were inspired by Branko Strupar.

Was it really any surprise that after such a result Luc Nilis should suddenly avail himself again for the national side, a year after he had blamed the deteriorating atmosphere under Georges Leekens for walking out?

Nicholas Harling

SWITZERLAND

Reform must wait for a while

HOPES of radically restructuring Swiss football were dashed when the 24 presidents of the First and Second Divisions met to vote on a study group's recommendations.

The ballot resulted in an 11-11 vote, with two absentees, and FA statutes required a two-thirds majority for acceptance of the key proposal – a reduction of the Premier Division from 12 clubs to 10 and an enlarged Second Division of 14 teams from 12, with automatic promotion/relegation.

It was a bitter disappointment for the study group, which was set up by the FA following strident demands for change. Under the current system, introduced in 1987, there is a 12-team qualifying phase before the winter break, with the top eight playing off for the championship in a spring round robin. If teams are tied on points for first place in the final phase, the club finishing higher in the qualifying round are champions.

Last season Servette somewhat undeservedly took the title because of this rule, despite Grasshopper, who also had 41 points, having a superior goal difference at the finish.

A survey of the First Division's presidents, conducted by the mass circulation Zurich daily *Blick*, showed that 10 out of 12 favoured a calendar-year tournament, and the majority of supporters were in favour, too.

In the League, leaders St Gallen and Lausanne already have qualified for the championship rounds in spring.

Champions Servette's decline continued, with a 2-1 defeat in Yverdon pushing them into the relegation zone. However, the club, who recently replaced sacked coach Gerard Castella with Rene Exbraya, beat Grasshopper in their next game to boost their chances of making the championship play-offs.

Ivar von Rulach.

REP IRELAND

Improvement's the name of the game

OVER the years one of the biggest complaints levied at League of Ireland clubs was the lack of facilities at grounds. Up to a few years ago it was difficult to buy a cup of tea at half-time or find a women's toilet in several grounds.

Money from BSkyB has helped many clubs to upgrade floodlights, and they have finally recognised that they must improve facilities if they are ever going to win back missing fans.

Bohemians have pulled down the old stand which has been there since Dalymount Park was opened in 1901 and replaced it with a new structure.

North Dublin neighbours Shelbourne will be the first Eircom League club to have corporate boxes when a new stand at the Drumcondra end of Tolka Park is opened soon.

St Patrick's Athletic are in discussions with Dublin Corporation with a view to building a new stadium across the road from their current home, Richmond Park. And Shamrock Rovers hope to be playing in their new stadium in a few months.

Bray Wanderers, Galway United and UCD have all carried out ground improvements, while government grants have been allocated to Cork City, Finn Harps, Kilkenny City and Sligo Rovers.

Sean Creedon

Pro-file Bart Goor

Midfield livewire animating Belgium's revival

UNLIKE his TV cartoon character namesake, no one is laughing these days at Anderlecht's Bart Goor. Indeed, with his assured performances on the left side of midfield, he has been one of the chief animators of the Belgian national team's revival over the past few months.

Goals in the morale-boosting 5-5 draw in Holland and the 3-1 victory over Italy in Lecce only point to part of his contribution to putting Belgium back on the straight and narrow. There is also his dynamism, neat approach work and tactical discipline.

Goor has travelled a rocky road since making his debut for the national team in a friendly against Cyprus last February. After all, four of his first five appearances for the *Diables Rouges* ended in defeat and like all his beleaguered national team-mates, he was filed under the no-hoper category by a sceptical Belgian media.

But this season he has really come of age in the international arena and can now look forward to starring for a vastly-improved Belgium at the Euro 2000 finals.

"A while back, we were wondering where our next win was coming from," says 26 year-old Goor. "Confidence was low and when a team is full of doubt, it's so hard to end a run of defeats. We needed a spark to get back on track, to make a fresh start, and finally got it in the Holland game.

"You can't under-estimate the effect of those results against Holland and Italy. The self-belief in our camp has come flooding back and now no one doubts our ability to do ourselves justice when we host Euro 2000. We don't claim to be one of the favourites, but we think we can make our fans proud of us next summer.

"Naturally, I was thrilled to score against Holland and Italy but I don't intend to get carried away. It's still early days in my international career and a lot can happen between now and next June. Euro 2000 is an event I don't want to miss."

However, Goor's name is extremely unlikely to be crossed from national coach Robert Waseige's team sheet, especially with the midfielder in such a rich vein of form for both Belgium and runaway League leaders Anderlecht, whom he joined in the summer of 1997 from Genk.

"I don't see him as the revelation that most people are calling him," argues Belgian coaching legend Raymond Goethals. "But I was impressed with him as a youngster and he's been making steady progress. The highest compliment I can pay him is that he looks totally in his element in international football."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Anderlecht
Country Belgium
Born April 9, 1973, in Neerpelt
Previous clubs Verbroedering Geel, Genk
International debut February 1999, v Cyprus
International caps 12 (2 gls)

Tomasson hits top form

Jim Holden reports on the born-again striker who fired the Danes into Euro 2000

Danish dynamite...Jon Dahl Tomasson

DENMARK

EURO 2000 play-off trauma affected every side involved bar one – Denmark. They scampered through to the finals with an 8-0 demolition of Israel inspired by the revitalised Jon Dahl Tomasson, the young striker who had such a miserable season at Newcastle United but found his form again with Feyenoord.

Tomasson, who scored 13 goals last season to help Feyenoord to the Dutch title, is now displaying the talent that marked him out early as a potential star. He scored in only the second minute of the first leg, in Tel Aviv, and it was a goal that proved a crucial psychological blow.

He made it a double as the Danes won 5-0, then finished off a second-leg saunter with the final goal of a 3-0 victory at a rapturous Parken in Copenhagen.

That made it six goals in five matches for 24-year-old Tomasson, who had never previously scored in international football.

"I can hardly believe it," he said. "Everything has been going right for me, and of course when you score your confidence increases. The way we qualified in our last few games, including a victory in Italy [where Tomasson scored the winner] means we feel we can do really well in the finals.

"We took time to adjust to the fact that neither of the Laudrup brothers would be playing any more. Every team would miss players of their quality. But there is a great spirit developing now. We don't fear anyone – and we can look back to 1992 for encouragement as well."

Peter Schmeichel, who was part of Denmark's European Championship-winning team seven years ago, remains a formidable presence in goal. He won his 118th cap in the second leg against Israel before going off to allow his eventual successor, Thomas Sorensen of Sunderland, a debut match. In front of him is an organised and experienced defence, and in midfield a clutch of talented youngsters who are beginning to click. Martin Jorgensen of Udinese and Jesper Gronkjaer of Ajax have the skill to unlock defences, while Duisburg's Stig Tofting provides the muscle.

In the Superliga, the march of John Jensen's Herfolge continued right up to the mid-season break. After an 11-match unbeaten start, they lost three on the trot, but the manager did not panic, and four successive victories put them an astonishing six points clear of Brondby.

Vejle are bottom, but whatever happens to them in the New Year, they are likely to keep their name. The proposed merger with smaller clubs Kolding and Fredericia, reported in *World Soccer* last month, is almost certain to be shelved because of opposition from the fans.

At Gent...Tore Andre Dahlum

NORWAY

Brann give Aabrekk a year off

FOOTBALL clubs in Norway let their players have a couple of weeks off before starting preparations for the new season, which begins in April.

One man, however, will have a rather longer period away from club activity. Brann Bergen let head coach Harald Aabrekk go despite having enjoyed a very successful period during his reign. The climate between coach and board had been gradually deteriorating, and Aabrekk was finally allowed a year's leave. He will be welcomed back but will have to accept another position.

Aabrekk will spend his 'out' year working for the Norwegian FA, in particular supervising players who are now with clubs abroad. He will continue as national coach Nils Johan Semb's assistant.

And who will replace him at Brann, the club where nobody seems able to stay for more than a couple of years? An old acquaintance who knows the stadium well – Iceland's Teitur Thordarson, who had a period in Bergen in the early 1990s.

Thordarson, manager of Estonia for the past couple of years after playing in France, is an old friend of Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, and will spend a couple of weeks at Highbury before he starts his second spell at Brann.

Valerenga just about managed to stay in the Elite division last season, but parted company with caretaker manager Knut Loberg. Tom Nordlie takes over, after two seasons in charge of Odd Grenland. He has been told there is little money to spend on new home-based players, and will have to search for cheaper men from abroad.

Odd wanted Hallvard Thoresen as their new coach but Lillestrom would not let him go – he has a year left on his contract as assistant coach. Instead, Arne Sandsto takes over from Nordlie.

Former Rosenborg and Norway

player Karl Petter Loken has been given the responsibility of directing a new team in Sarpsborg. Several clubs in the Ostfold area decided that the only way to obtain success was to form a larger, merged entity.

In Stavanger, Viking have replaced Poul Erik Andreassen, a Dane, with a Swede, Benny Lennartson, who was with the club when they won the League title in 1991.

Tromso have sold players for more than £5million over the past four years. Ole Martin Aarst, who moved to Gent in Belgium, is the most expensive, and now Bjorn Johansen has left for Swedish club Helsingborgs.

Joining Aarst at Gent is Rosenborg player Tore Andre Dahlum, who is also teaming up with his former coach Trond Sollied.

Meanwhile, Rosenborg have signed Arild Berg of Bodo/Glimt, with Christian Berg moving in the opposite direction.

Molde have bought Australian international Clayton Zane, who impressed during a trial earlier this season, while Bjorn Tore Kvarme, the former Rosenborg and Liverpool full-back, is now with Saint-Etienne.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

Hero Stavrum leaves Helsingborgs

NORWEGIAN striker Arild Stavrum has joined Aberdeen from Helsingborgs, the club he has just helped to win their first Swedish championship since 1941.

Stavrum scored the only goal in the title-clinching victory over IFK Gothenburg and later said that it was the most important goal of his career. But was it offside? Many neutral observers thought so.

No one enjoyed Helsingborgs' success more than Kalle Svensson, Sweden's 1958 World Cup goalkeeper and perhaps the club's most famous player. At 74, Svensson was afraid that he'd never see his beloved HIF win the championship again.

Stavrum's compatriot and clubmate Kenneth Storvik will, after all, leave for Rosenborg, although Helsingborgs have maintained a Norwegian presence with the purchase of midfielder Bjorn Johansen from Tromso.

AIK have lost their influential captain Krister Nordin, 31, to Brondby of Denmark. They have also replaced right-back Mike Kjolo with Mattias Thylander from relegated Malmo, while veteran central defender Patrick Englund has retired.

Tickets for next April's Gothenburg derby between GAIS – back in the top division after seven years – and IFK are already in demand.

Sunderland midfielder Stefan Schwarz has been named Sweden's Player of the Year.

Pentti Hietanen

Brondby bound...Krister Nordin

FINLAND

Rapid rise for Penttila

TERO PENTTILA, the captain of FC Haka, has signed for Rangers in a surprise deal.

A year ago, the 24-year-old central defender was just another player with Second Division FC Lahti. But having been signed by Haka, he was immediately named captain and had a fantastic debut season in the top flight.

This was crowned by winning the League, followed by the bid from Rangers. Penttila has yet to gain his first full cap.

The league of Finnish players in Norway increased with national team defender Hannu Tihinen joining Viking Stavanger from HJK Helsinki.

The League's attempt to re-introduce the play-off system to decide the championship was blocked by the local federation. Instead, next season, teams will play each other three times, a total of 33 games.

Pentti Hietanen

Pro-file Erik Hoftun

Granite foundation of Rosenborg's success

ERIK HOFTUN, the experienced central defender from Norwegian League champions Rosenborg, crowned a superb domestic season by captaining his club to victory in the Cup Final in October. The 30-year-old has also been a key figure for the national side and made a considerable contribution to Norway's qualification for the Euro 2000 finals.

Hoftun first played for KIL/Hemne before spending a couple of years with Molde in the early 1990s and moving to Rosenborg in 1994. He was never a quick player but has compensated with good positional understanding and is often the initiator of attacks. Dominant in the air and very uncompromising on the ground, he is simply solid granite in Rosenborg's defence.

Hoftun has played a central role in his club's success in Europe, notably helping them to the quarter-finals of the 1996-97 Champions League.

"It is amazing the way the team has managed to develop, despite the fact that a couple of players have left for foreign clubs every year," he says. "Our coaches during these years, Nils Arne Eggen and Trond Sollied, have followed the same philosophy, and for them continuity has been the key word.

"They have put emphasis on attacking football and the movements of the players within the team are so well structured. That is the decisive factor in our success."

Hoftun believes his team can make it through to the knockout stages of this season's Champions League as well, having qualified comfortably for the second group phase.

"Winning our first group against tough clubs [Feyenoord, Borussia Dortmund and Boavista] has given us tremendous confidence and belief in our own ability. I honestly believe we can qualify from the second group, even though Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and Dynamo Kyiv are very strong."

Hoftun ranks this season's away win against Borussia highest on his list of achievements. "To go to Dortmund and win 3-0 was fantastic. I had to pinch myself to believe it was true. But it shows the belief we now have in our own ability."

Hoftun enjoys his football with the club that can still give him a lot of domestic and international success, and he also hopes to be a part of a successful Norway at the Euro 2000 finals.

"I still have an appetite for more," he says. "I'm sure I can continue at this level for another five years at least."

Sigurd Odegaard

Fact file

Club Rosenborg
Country Norway
Born March 3, 1969, in Kyrkseterora
Previous clubs KIL/Hemne, Molde
International debut January 1997, v Australia
International caps 20 (0 gls)
Honours Norwegian League 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999; Norwegian Cup 1995, 1999

Body blow...Boban has played his last game for Croatia

All change

Zdravko Reic reports on a country in transition

CROATIA

MAJOR changes are taking place in Croatia, at national level and on the soccer scene. The country's president, Franjo Tudjman, is reportedly close to death, and the political upheaval that such an event would cause is being mirrored at Croatia Zagreb, the country's leading team.

Tudjman's love for the club is well known, and has caused dissent on many occasions, with referees and other officials being accused of behaving favourably towards FC Croatia rather than upset the country's No 1 soccer fan.

Now the club president, Zlatko Canjuga, has upset many supporters by declaring that the club will revert to the old title, Dinamo.

Fans have been seeking such a change throughout the seven years that the current name has been used, but they believe that the pronouncement from Canjuga, who backs the majority HDZ party, is merely designed to win favour in order to try to influence the election that would be caused by Tudjman's death.

FC Croatia coach Osvaldo Ardiles was sacked within moments of the club's failure to qualify for the second group phase of the Champions League. Ardiles is now going to court seeking some form of pay-off.

A defeat by Rijeka in the last League match before the winter break meant that the club slipped to second, three points behind Hajduk.

The national team's 3-0 friendly defeat by France in Paris led to more criticism of coach Miroslav Blazevic and was followed by Zvonimir Boban's announcement that he was retiring from international football.

"The national team will be trying to qualify for the World Cup in 2002, but I'll be retired from club football [with Milan] by then, and there's no point in going on," he said. "I am having a lot of problems with my spine, which makes it impossible for me to play regularly, and it's best if I go now."

Boban, Croatia's outstanding personality of the decade, has been an inspirational captain. The squad who finished third in the 1998 World Cup are now fragmenting. Robert Prosinecki was the first to quit, and now Boban, Drazen Ladic, Slaven Bilic and probably Aljosa Asanovic are doing the same.

ISRAEL

Sordid end to Euro campaign

A HUMILIATING 5-0 home defeat by Denmark at Ramat Gan in the first leg of Israel's Euro 2000 qualifying play-off left the country stunned.

Expectations had been high that Israel would finally qualify for their first major competition since the 1970 World Cup. Instead, the debacle against the Danes effectively marked the end of Shlomo Scharf's eight-year tenure as national coach. It was a sad farewell to a man who had raised the national team from the doldrums to become one of FIFA's top 30-ranked nations.

"Something rotten in the Kingdom of Israel," screamed one headline after the first leg. Just how rotten became apparent four days later when the *Ma'ariv* newspaper published allegations that members of the squad had been cavorting with call girls the night before the match.

The players denied the allegations, which broke on the morning of the return leg in Copenhagen, a game the Israelis proceeded to lose 3-0. But by the time the squad returned home the blow-by-blow accounts of the girls in question had the public flocking to the news-stands.

At first the Football Association went on the attack, threatening to sue *Ma'ariv*, but soon changed its tack and ordered an inquiry.

More fuel was added to the fire when the boss of the escort agency that had allegedly provided the 'ladies of the night' claimed they had arranged similar services for the players for nearly two years.

The FA's week-long inquiry came to an interim finding, absolving the players of wrongdoing. But the suspicion of an attempted whitewash by the governing body increased when Sports Minister Matan Viln'ai told a parliamentary committee debating the affair that the FA had acted in an unprofessional manner.

On the domestic front Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa remained tied at the top of the table with 29 points from 12 matches.

Derek Fattal

TURKEY

Doubts about Denizli

TURKEY's qualification for Euro 2000 brought at least a glimmer of joy to the earthquake-devastated nation. The first of the two play-off games against the Republic of Ireland ended 1-1 in Dublin, Tayfur's penalty giving the Turks a priceless away goal.

In the return, in Bursa, Sergen put on possibly his best display for the national team and inspired them to hold out for a 0-0 draw.

Goalkeeper Rustu Recber, injured in the first half, was replaced by his deputy at Fenerbahce, Engin Ypekoglu, who is 38 and had not played in an official match all season. However, he did not have a serious save to make in his 55 minutes on the pitch.

Turkey coach Mustafa Denizli has rekindled player pride and refuelled passion among the fans, yet he frequently comes in for criticism. Denizli believes that his record merits a new contract, but no discussions have yet taken place.

Denizlispor, promoted at the end of last season, were the surprise League leaders with 20 points from nine games. However, they only drew their next game, allowing Galatasaray to leapfrog above them.

Hasan Cemali

GREECE

Bayevic calls it quits

NOVEMBER was certainly an unforgettable month. Top club Olympiakos lost their coach and a valuable player, a shooting incident brought new fears into the game, and the home teams in European competition had poor results.

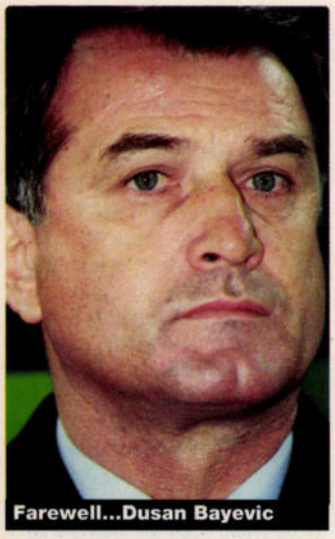
One of the most successful coaches in Greek soccer history, Dusan Bayevic, resigned from Olympiakos after they were eliminated from the Champions League. Bayevic, who led the club to three League titles, stepped down with his team undefeated in the First Division. Former Napoli coach Alberto Bigon has taken over.

Slovenian star Zlatko Zahovic, who often had problems with Bayevic, failed to return to Greece after playing for his national team. He wants to cancel his four-year contract, worth more than £7million, but has upset the public and his team-mates by calling Greek players "jealous, lazy and non-professional".

Olympiakos' 2-0 win at AEK sparked violence inside and outside the stadium. Home fan Evangelos Thomaidis, 45, died of a heart attack and a man opened fire with a pistol in AEK's VIP club after being attacked by fans. The gunman was knifed in a leg and needed surgery. Greece's Sports under-secretary Andreas Fouras said: "We have been internationally disgraced."

All three Greek clubs had problems in the first leg of their UEFA Cup third round ties. Olympiakos lost 3-1 at home to Juventus, AEK were held 2-2 by Monaco, and Panathinaikos went down 4-2 at Deportivo La Coruna.

Lou Economopoulos



Farewell...Dusan Bayevic

YUGOSLAVIA

Fan killed at derby

ALEKSANDER RADOVIC, a Red Star fan, died when hit by a flare thrown during a derby match against Partizan in Belgrade, the first death caused by hooliganism in the history of football in Yugoslavia.

The match itself ended in a 2-0 win for Partizan, who are level with Obilic at the top. Red Star are six points behind.

Vojvodina Novi Sad 'celebrated' their 85th anniversary with nearly all their players going on strike for 27 days. The conflict arose when a director, Svetozar Sapuric, was dismissed for allegedly keeping £470,000 of the fee received when Damir Stojak was transferred to Napoli.

Vladimir Novak

MACEDONIA

Pigeons fly high

SLOGA JUGOMAGNAT from Skopje led the League at the halfway stage – and now must try to keep up the tradition of all the previous seven Macedonian championships. On each occasion, the autumn leaders have gone on to win the title. Sloga, nicknamed the Pigeons, were four points ahead of Pobeda Prilep and on the back of a 23-game unbeaten run.

Vardar Skopje are in danger of relegation and have lost a strong sponsor, Makpetrol. Several companies are interested in taking over the club, where players were prepared to strike when debts caused their wages to dry up.

Michel Stojmanovski

SLOVENIA

Still feeling good

SEVERAL weeks have passed since Slovenia qualified for the Euro 2000 finals by beating Ukraine 3-2 in the play-offs, but there is still a widespread feeling of euphoria.

Bad weather caused an early break in the national championship, with Maribor leading by seven points.

Zdravko Reic

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Mirko in the mire

MIRKO KLJAJIC is at the centre of a row after becoming the first player from the Croatian territory of Herzegovina to appear for a Bosnian national selection.

Kljajic, who plays for Brotnjo in Bosnia's Croatian Division, helped Bosnia to a 0-0 draw against a Germany reserve side in Sarajevo.

His pleasure did not last long. Brotnjo suspended him until further notice, while UEFA are trying to get the penalty withdrawn.

Although Bosnia's Serbian and Croatian football administrators claim to support the idea of a united league involving teams from all the country's ethnic communities, their actions do not bear that out.

The Bosnian championship shut down until March with Zeljeznicar top on 29 points, followed by Jedinstvo (27) and Bosna (26). Cup-winners Bosna won the Super Cup by beating champions Sarajevo 3-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

Zdravko Reic

MALTA

Barry the hero

THE national team achieved their second positive result this year in a 0-0 draw with Lebanon in Beirut, in which goalkeeper Ernest Barry saved a penalty. Coach Josif Ilic, whose team beat Bosnia 2-1 in January before suffering seven successive defeats, hopes to arrange a return with the Lebanese.

On the domestic front, Birkirkara still lead the pack comfortably.

Domenico Aquilina

Pro-file Arif Erdem

Turkish flank man aiming to deliver at Euro 2000

TURKEY'S involvement in the Euro 2000 finals does not simply represent another opportunity for them to move up a notch or two in the continental footballing hierarchy. For national team and Galatasaray forward Arif Erdem, the expedition to the Low Countries will also be about helping to heal the wounds caused by the three earthquakes in four months that devastated parts of his country earlier this year.

"Football means so much to the Turkish people, and we are in a position to give them a boost after all the suffering, to put a smile on faces and to make them proud," says Arif. "We've made a good start to the process by qualifying for the European finals. Now we have to take it a step further and make the quarter-finals at least.

"Every successful result for us in Holland and Belgium will be dedicated to the thousands who lost their lives in the earthquakes and all those who continue to suffer terribly.

"We have to achieve a great deal more than we did at Euro 96 [Turkey lost all three first-round matches against Croatia, Portugal and Denmark]. Our national team is a much more mature and competitive proposition, and we have the skill, organisation and motivation to perform very well."

Provided a cure is found for the niggling muscular problems that have dogged Arif this season, the 27-year-old will undoubtedly be one of the Turks' key men at Euro 2000. His lightning pace and jinxing runs on either flank (he prefers the right), coupled with an uncanny ability to hit the head of front man Hakan Sukur, make Arif the perfect supply route.

He is also an adept goalscorer, as he proved when scoring a hat-trick in Turkey's 3-0 Euro 2000 qualifying victory over Northern Ireland last September. The snag is that in tough-looking encounters, national coach Mustafa Denizli has a tendency to play just Hakan up front, demoting Arif to the bench. Such a waste, considering the understanding he and Hakan have built up over eight seasons together at Galatasaray.

"When I was coach at Galatasaray a few years ago, Arif could be brought on as a substitute and would straight away get into the flow of the game and cause trouble for the opposition," recalled German Reinhard Saftig. "But now the situation is different. He is much more experienced and has improved in every way. He is too good to be on the bench."

Arif will be hoping for greater exploitation of his talents in the important months ahead.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Galatasaray
Country Turkey
Born January 2, 1972, in Zeytinburnu
Previous club Zeytinburnu
International debut August 1994, v Macedonia
International caps 30 (6 gls)
Honours Turkish League 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999; Turkish Cup 1993, 1996

Reappointed...Emerich Jenei is back as national coach

Return of the Jenei

Bob Vaughan on a change at the top

ROMANIA

EVENTS since Romania qualified for the Euro 2000 finals have taken the gloss off the achievement. National coach Victor Piturca and veteran international Gheorghe Hagi were involved in a disagreement on a television show, during which Piturca maintained that Romania would have qualified for the Low Countries even without Hagi's help. The coach also criticised other international players.

The upshot was that the FA dismissed Piturca from his post and replaced him with Steaua Bucharest boss Emerich Jenei. Some time later, in an odd twist, Piturca was installed as the new coach at Steaua, where previously he had won five League titles and one Cup!

It is Jenei's second spell in charge of Romania, having led them between 1986 and 1990, and guided them to the World Cup in Italy. He went on to become national coach of Hungary as well as taking positions at Panionios in Greece and Hungary's Videoton. Jenei, now 62, is under contract until the end of the 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

GEORGIA

Otar plays it fair

DYNAMO TBILISI coach Otar Korgalidze caused a sensation by asking one of his players to miss a penalty – two minutes from the end of a match, when his team were a goal behind.

The referee had awarded the spot-kick against Lokomotiv, who appealed against the extremely doubtful decision. As Dynamo's Ashvetia was taking the penalty, Korgalidze was shouting "Don't score! We don't need to win with a referee's help!"

But Ashvetia did score to make it 1-1, and in the final seconds his team-mate Aleksidze added another goal to give Dynamo victory.

Lokomotiv protested to the federation, demanding a replay. Instead, the federation are now even said to be considering giving Korgalidze a 'fair play' award to recognise his action.

Regardless of any other considerations, Dynamo hardly needed the referee's 'gift' – they have a seven-point lead in the League.

Vladimir Kalinkovich

BULGARIA

Euro treat in Sofia

MOSCOW SPARTAK's pitch problems gave Bulgarian fans an unexpected view of Premier League footballers when Leeds United's visit for the Russians' 'home' game in the UEFA Cup was switched to Sofia.

In the domestic League, Levski were leading by three points from CSKA at the halfway point in the season. Below them were Neftohimik and Velbazhd, but Slavia, in seventh place, already look out of contention.

Sofia surprise...Leeds v Spartak

Lokomotiv Sofia recovered form to trounce Dobrudzha Dobrich 4-0, and their opponents already look doomed.

Bob Vaughan

RUSSIA

Row rumbles on

THE arguments over why Russia failed to qualify for Euro 2000 have continued, with coach Oleg Romantsev coming in for his share of the blame.

He left influential midfielder Alexander Mostovoi out of the deciding game against Ukraine, even though he was fit, desperate to play and has been in great form for Celta Vigo in Spain.

Mostovoi says that he will never forgive Romantsev. In return, the coach has been quoted as saying that "I have forgotten such a player exists".

Mostovoi has won 37 caps and has been an influential skipper, but even without the latest dispute he knew that he was unlikely to figure in the World Cup plans because he is already 31.

The coach and the player have had several clashes down the years, starting when Mostovoi was a teenager at Krasnaya Presnya in the Russian Second Division. Romantsev was the coach there, and claims that on occasions the player had to be escorted to and from the stadium to prevent him from going absent.

Victor Gusev

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sparta take a knock

AN AUTUMN of football triumph in the country was marginally dented by Sparta's home defeat by FC Porto in the first game of the second phase of the Champions League. Coach Ivan Hasek was disappointed that the club had dominated the first half but failed to score. "We lost the game rather than Porto winning it," he said.

As the League closed down for the winter break, Sparta were four points behind Slavia, who remain unbeaten after 16 games.

Bob Vaughan

AUSTRIA

Gap closed on Tirol

LATE AUTUMN was grim for Austria, with the loss of the proposed 'Danube Games', elimination from Euro 2000, and the continuing sorry state of the domestic game.

At the winter break in the League,

Tirol's lead at the top had been cut to two points following an away defeat by Grazer AK. Their closest challengers, Rapid, comfortably beat Lustenau but then lost the subsequent game 3-1 at Sturm.

On the business front, Austro-Canadian sponsor Frank Stronach, the Federal League president, is putting forward some £2million to form a top club. Meanwhile up the Danube at St Poelten, Division Two VSE are hopeful that Iranian millionaire Farokh Sharif will provide the money to help take the club into the top flight.

Bob Vaughan

HUNGARY

Dunaferr stake a claim

AS THE domestic season neared its halfway point, Dunaferr remained the unlikely leaders. The club are based in Dunaujvaros, the one-time 'Stalin City', south of Budapest, which for some time had been unrepresented in the top flight. However, since the re-formed Dunaferr established themselves in the First Division, reasonable progress has been made and they now seem realistic challengers for the title.

MTK were behind Dunaferr only on goals, with Vasas two points back.

Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

Kinder egged back

THE HALFWAY point in the League was reached with Inter top, ahead of Kosice on goals, despite displaying the same lack of consistency that cost them the championship last season.

Slovan are as low as 10th and because of financial difficulties, the players are being paid only irregularly. It is difficult to know, therefore, how the club have been able to offer terms to Vladimir Kinder, who has returned to Slovan from Middlesbrough. Despite having failed to secure a first-team place in England, he will not be cheap.

The national team made a lengthy tour of Latin America as the first half of the season was drawing to a close. Results included a 2-1 defeat by Peru – which was no disgrace given that Slovakia were without their players based abroad – and a 1-0 victory over Guatemala, the goal coming from Hrabal 15 minutes from time. However, tiredness caught up with the squad in San Jose where Costa Rica proved too strong.

Bob Vaughan

UKRAINE

Szabo out; Dynamo overloaded

THE national team's surprise Euro 2000 defeat by Slovenia was followed, as expected, by national coach Jozsef Szabo's resignation. Oleg Blokhin was a front-runner to succeed him.

Szabo hasn't been the only one to suffer since Ukraine's failure to qualify for the Low Countries, because now the load being carried by Kyiv Dynamo has become even heavier.

Dynamo are the only Ukrainian club able to compete on equal terms with big names abroad, and continue to do so despite losing so many players to foreign sides for big money.

But the club are suffering at the gate, with many fewer spectators willing to pay to watch wins that are so easily achieved and often with below-strength selections.

Home again...Vladimir Kinder

Oleg Zadernovsky

POLAND

Jerzy pulled on board

THE FA has appointed Polonia coach Jerzy Engel to lead the national team, following the 'demotion' of Janusz Wojcik. Engel earned his spurs after guiding the Warsaw club to second place in the League last season, but he was only approached after it became clear that Legia Warsaw would not release their coach, Franciszek Smuda, to take up the post.

At the halfway point in the League, Ruch Chorzow were two points clear of Polonia, with Legia and Wisla Krakow a further two points back.

Piotr Nylec

Pro-file Sabin Ilie

Romanian hot-shot aiming to follow his big brother

OVER to you, brother. Valencia striker Adrian Ilie is already an automatic selection for Romania. But will his uncapped younger brother and fellow front-runner Sabin, of Steaua Bucharest, join him in the national squad in time for Euro 2000?

One man prepared to back the case for Ilie junior is veteran Steaua and Romania libero Miodrag Belodedici. "I'm not just saying this to boost the confidence of a team-mate, but I honestly feel Sabin deserves a chance with the national team," he says. "He has been in good scoring form for Steaua this season and has generally led the forward line very well.

"Adrian Ilie and Moldovan are well established as the first-choice strikeforce. But there is still room in the squad for two or three other attackers, and Sabin has as much right to a place as any contender. He could be the best back-up of them all."

So far, Sabin's career has been very topsy-turvy. He started promisingly at FC Brasov, became a marketable commodity after scoring 31 League goals for Steaua in 1996-97, only to stumble when he moved on to Fenerbahce in Istanbul.

His form was so unconvincing that by the New Year he had been offloaded to mid-table provincial outfit Kocaelispor, where injury restricted him to six starts. So it was hardly a shock when his hopes of inclusion in Romania's France 98 party subsequently went up in smoke.

One quickie Turkish divorce later, Sabin headed off to Spain in the summer of 1998 to link up with big brother Adrian at Valencia. It was not a wise move. He found himself marginalised by forwards of the quality of his brother, Argentina's Claudio Lopez, Croat international Goran Vlaovic and impressive young Spaniard Miguel Angel Angulo, and after three utterly forgettable foreign experiences, it was understandable that the younger Ilie should opt for the home comforts of a second spell with Steaua.

The return to his roots has worked wonders for his confidence and form, and with former Steaua coach Emerich Jenei now in charge of the Romanian national team following the recent sacking of Victor Piturca, the odds on Ilie's international breakthrough have shortened considerably.

Jenei knows all about Ilie and rates him highly. "Sabin is the type of forward I appreciate a lot," he says. "He might not have the elegance and virtuosity of his brother but Sabin is a better striker of a ball from distance, is more powerful and more of a fighter. He's a real handful for defenders."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Steaua Bucharest
Country Romania
Born May 11, 1975, in Craiova
Previous clubs FC Brasov, Steaua Bucharest, Fenerbahce (Tur), Kocaelispor (Tur), Valencia (Spa)
Honours Romanian League 1996, 1997; Romanian Cup 1996, 1997

Wasted trip...Ronaldo flew to Australia, trained, but did not play

Yet more farce

Brian Homewood on a shambles at home and abroad

BRAZIL

BRAZILIAN football directors have once again surpassed themselves, contriving to make this year's national championship even more disorganised than any of those that have gone before. If that were not enough, they have now begun exporting their unique brand of football mismanagement.

While the national championship was degenerating into another pathetic farce, Australia and Spain also saw the unfortunate side of the Brazilian game.

Over in Sydney, the CBF landed Australian promoters in a fix after wrongly leading them to believe that Ronaldo was eligible to play and would appear on the Olympic team's tour Down Under. Promoters IMG, having set up two matches between the Socceroos and Brazil for which they had charged around £40 a ticket, had to give the public their money back after Ronaldo was pulled out at the last minute.

The problem was that he already had played six of the seven friendlies for which FIFA rules oblige his club, Inter, to release him per year. Therefore the CBF needed to depend on Inter's goodwill for him to play in both games. But Inter already were fuming at seeing their most prized player being taken halfway around the world to play for an Under-23 team, and as soon as FIFA deemed that Inter were in the right, the Italians were on the phone telling Ronaldo to come back.

Ronaldo still could have played one match had Brazil manager Wanderley Luxemburgo not gone into a huff. He decreed that Ronaldo

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would not play at all, and so he was sent all the way back across the world without kicking a ball.

All the evidence suggests that the CBF had tried to pull a fast one on the Australians. They alleged that Ronaldo had played only four friendlies because the two matches at home to Holland in June, which he missed through injury, did not count. In fact, Ronaldo was dropped from the squad AFTER being released by Inter and making the trip to Brazil, so this argument never had a chance.

The CBF probably knew this but included Ronaldo in the squad for Australia anyway, afraid that if he did not arrive the promoters would cancel the tour and not pay up. The promoters had threatened to do as much on hearing that the Under-23s were being sent, not the senior squad, but the decision to include

In a fix...Luxemburgo

Ronaldo and put Luxemburgo in charge of the side had appeared to placate them.

Luxemburgo could not send the senior squad because the CBF, eyes on yet another cheque, had arranged a friendly away to Spain only a few hours before the first match in Australia.

For the Spain match, Luxemburgo, who picked the squad and put his assistant Candinho in charge, called up only players based abroad "to avoid problems for Brazilian clubs".

Strangely, he has taken quite the opposite attitude towards European clubs, picking their Brazilians regardless of domestic commitments and invoking FIFA's seven-friendlies-a-year law every time there is a protest.

Brazil's whole attitude to the match was one of complete apathy, and the players arrived in Vigo in twos and threes, very much in the style of a Sunday league side whose men had been out the night before. They had only one full training session before playing a dreary 0-0 draw.

While all this was going on, more fun and games were taking place back home, where attention was divided between the results on the pitch and results being determined by the Brazilian sporting tribunal. This was awarding points to some teams who had already been involved in games featuring Sao Paulo's supposedly ineligible forward, Sandro Hiroshi – and deducting them from Sao Paulo.

The culmination of this quite ridiculous scenario came when the tribunal gave Internacional a point only a few hours before their crucial match against Palmeiras. This took them out of the relegation zone and left them needing to win their last game and hope that either Gama or Botafogo drew or lost.

Internacional employed every dirty trick in the book as they scraped a 1-0 win. Although all matches were supposed to start at the same time, Internacional-Palmeiras started 15 minutes late for obvious reasons. Inter locked themselves in their dressing-room and then claimed they could not hear the referee telling them it was time to take to the pitch. When they finally emerged, they dallied when asked to kick off.

Ten minutes from the end, veteran midfielder Dunga scored Inter's life-saving goal. After that, Internacional manager Emerson Leao would throw a spare ball on to the pitch every time Palmeiras tried to attack in order to disrupt play. He was ordered away from the pitch, only for the Internacional ball-boys to start doing the same thing.

Then, in the 89th minute, the floodlights went out. When power was restored 20 minutes later, all the ball boys seemed to have gone home and the spare balls had gone as well. When the match ball went into touch, a Palmeiras player had to climb into the moat to get it out. Only about 30 seconds was played and then the final whistle went.

Former international Rivelino said: "Brazil have won the World Cup four times, and we have produced the Athlete of the Century [Pele], yet our own football still suffers from this sort of thing."

On the pitch, Vitoria, Atletico Mineiro, Sao Paulo and Corinthians progressed to the semi-finals. The big shock was Atletico Mineiro's win over Cruzeiro in Belo Horizonte, the latter having finished the first stage in second place and having looked the best team in the League.

Pro-file Edilson

Crafty Corinthian aiming for an international recall

FRANCE 98 exposed the paucity of Brazilian football's tactical thinking. The national team, as almost all the clubs back home do, played a stereotypical 4-4-2. It had all become very predictable.

Corinthians showed the way forward. They won the 1998 national championship with a team full of tactical innovations. There was no front pairing, for example. A lone striker frequently acted as a decoy, while the real danger came from two tiny men running from deep. There was Marcelinho Carioca, with his wickedly swerving shots; and there was Edilson, whose sinuous running with the ball was a headache for all opponents. By cleverly varying his position, it was hard enough to find him, let alone to mark him.

Edilson – full name Edilson da Silva Ferreira – carried his fine form into this year's Paulista championship, helping Corinthians to the title. However, he was at the centre of a controversial incident during the deciding game of the Final against Palmeiras that was to cost him dear. He had just scored the goal that confirmed Corinthians as champions, and celebrated with a spot of ball-juggling in midfield. But his cheeky behaviour sent the Palmeiras players wild and the ensuing mass brawl caused the game to be abandoned.

After years in the international wilderness, Edilson had been set to get his chance in the Copa America, but Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo blamed him for provoking the on-field riot, and axed him from the squad.

"It was a blow for me," he confirms, "because it came at a time when I was playing the best football of my career. I meant no disrespect with what I did. But that's in the past. What I want to do now is keep working hard with the aim of playing even better. That way I hope I can regain the trust of the national team coach, and make up for what I lost."

The World Club Championship could be just the stage Edilson is looking for to stake his international claim. A lucrative move to Europe is also a possibility. "Brazilians are in fashion with English clubs at the moment. Agents have been in touch and told me that Manchester United are interested, but there's nothing concrete yet. I'm still a Corinthians player."

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Corinthians
Country Brazil
Born September 17, 1971, in Salvador, Bahia
Previous clubs Industrial, Tanabi, Guarani, Palmeiras, Benfica (Por), Palmeiras, Kashiwa Reysol (Jap)
International caps 3
Honours Brazilian national championship 1993, 1998; Sao Paulo state championship 1993, 1994, 1999

Close finish in view

ARGENTINA

ARGENTINA's opening championship was heading for a grandstand finish between the country's two most popular clubs, River Plate and Boca Juniors.

With two games to go, River Plate held a three-point lead over defending champions Boca.

A third contender, San Lorenzo, shared second place with Boca until the 15th round, when they were surprisingly beaten 1-0 at home by Lanus, playing their first game under returning coach Miguel Angel Russo.

San Lorenzo, though virtually out of contention for the title themselves, were set to have a large say in its outcome since they were playing River Plate in the final round.

River continue to rely on youth and in their 4-1 win away to Talleres, Javier Saviola (17), Pablo Aimar (20) and Gabriel Pereyra (19) scored all the goals.

Boca's injury worries continue, with the latest affecting the League's top scorer, Martin Palermo, whose torn knee ligaments are likely to keep him out for between six and nine months.

There is likely to be renewed pressure on FA chief Julio Grondona to use foreign referees for domestic games following two recent incidents. In the Boca-Union Santa Fe match, a local official gave Boca a doubtful penalty which enabled them to take a 2-0 lead when they were struggling to keep it at 1-0. In the Talleres-River match mentioned above, River were leading 2-1 and were under pressure when two players started fighting. Only the Talleres man was dismissed, and River scored twice more.

Velez Sarsfield goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert surpassed his previous scoring feats when he converted three penalties in the home game against Ferro Carril Oeste. He thus became the first keeper to score a hat-trick and took his career tally to 46 – 39 from penalties and seven from free-kicks.

Eric Weil

Out of action...Boca's Martin Palermo (left) faces a lengthy absence

Maradona, the series, and the new kid on the block

DIEGO MARADONA's life story, seen largely from his viewpoint, is to be made into a TV series, with filming due to start before the New Year. But back in the real world, the Buenos Aires provincial supreme court has upheld a two-year suspended jail term handed out to Maradona by a lower court for wounding journalists with an air rifle in 1994.

● LEANDRO DEPETRIS is yet another 'new Maradona' in the eyes of soccer followers, and Milan have shown sufficient interest to invite him to Italy for a medical. However, Leandro, who plays in the junior team of a Santa Fe provincial league club, Brown of San Vicente, is only 11.

Eric Weil

ROUND UP

Penarol are champions again

PENAROL recaptured the URUGUAYAN title by beating defending champions Nacional in a three-match play-off between the winners of the opening and closing tournaments. The first two ties ended 1-1, but in the third, Penarol came back from 1-0 down to win 2-1 and thus take their 35th title in professional soccer.

Nine players were sent off in the three hectic games and all three Nacional goals came from Gabriel Alvez.

IN COLOMBIA, Millonarios of Bogota ended the closing championship's 22-match first stage at the top and unbeaten, having drawn 12 of their games and winning the other 10.

But in the second stage, for which the top eight qualified, they lost three out of six games and finished bottom of their group of four.

Independiente Medellin inflicted two of those defeats on their way to topping Group A and qualifying for the two-leg Final, in which they were due to meet Atletico Nacional, who finished five points clear in Group B.

IN BOLIVIA, Victor Hugo Antelo continues as League top scorer with 29 goals, but his club, Blooming, who had been leading the closing championship final round, fell back to third after defeats by Bolivar and Union Central. Replacing them at the top were The Strongest, now coached by former Argentina World Cup-winner Mario Kempes.

IN CHILE, Universidad de Chile's unbeaten run finally came to an end after 33 games when they lost 3-1 at home to Cobreloa. But this was only a minor hiccup on their way to the title. They led the championship play-off group by seven points with two games to go, and also had inflicted a 3-2 defeat on arch-rivals Universidad Catolica on the way.

IN PARAGUAY, Cerro Porteno beat Cerro Cora in the closing championship Final but lost out to opening championship winners and defending champions Olimpia in the two-leg match to decide the overall title. Olimpia won both home and away.

IN PERU, Alianza Lima won the closing championship with a game to spare after thrashing Municipal 6-1 away. This earned them a two-leg tie against opening champions Universitario to decide the overall winners. The unfinished match between Sport Boys and Alianza Lima – suspended with the score 1-1 – went into the table as a draw.

Eric Weil

Change for the better

Paul Gardner reports on encouraging new moves in the MLS operation

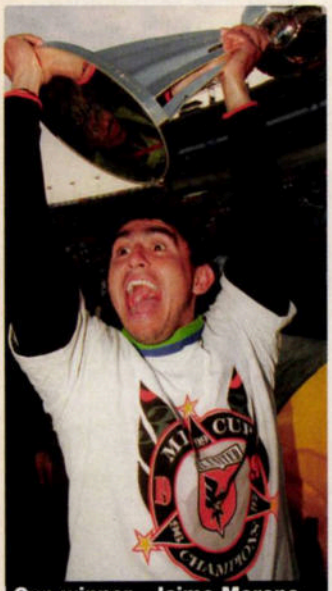
USA

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER finished its fourth season with a flourish of sorts – a crowd of 44,910 in Boston seeing the championship-deciding MLS Cup game between DC United and Los Angeles Galaxy.

The Washington side have played in all four MLS Cup matches, and Los Angeles coach Sigi Schmid summed that up nicely before the start, remarking: "I'd like to thank them for inviting us to their annual championship game."

There was no gratitude whatever from DC, however, who won 2-0, making it three titles out of four.

It was not the greatest game in the world, and both the goals were



Cup winner...Jaime Moreno

untidy. After 19 minutes Jaime Moreno tapped in to end a frantic goalmouth scramble, then a few seconds before half-time, Galaxy goalkeeper Kevin Hartman made a disastrous hash of trying to clear and succeeded only in serving the ball up for Ben Olsen, who shot into an empty net.

Of course, there was controversy, and of course it centred around a referee's decision – a penalty not given when, with DC leading 1-0, Galaxy's Cobi Jones was brought down. "The refereeing was crap – and they can fine me for that," was Schmid's considered opinion.

Olsen, a young American who is perhaps the most brilliant product of the League's Project-40 programme for developing players, was voted the game's Most Valuable Player.

So DC roll on, playing excellent, attacking soccer and winning while doing it. That is a reassuring constant as the League looks back on a year of disturbing upheavals. The firing of deputy commissioner Sunil Gulati in February was a really dumb move by MLS commissioner Doug Logan, who suffered the same fate when the owners unseated him in August.

Logan's replacement, Don Garber, had no soccer background whatever, and promptly made a number of unnecessarily silly statements. He then had the sense to shut up while he did some boning up on the sport.

Garber started talking again just before the MLS Cup game, announcing a "New Agenda", but this time much of what he said made sense. He announced a number of changes in the way that the League would operate, the most popular being that MLS would drop the procedure of having drawn games decided by a shoot-out without any extra time. The new plan is for two five-minute golden-goal periods to be played and the game to end as a draw if there is no score.

Other changes:

- Until now, the time-clock has been controlled from the sidelines, with a stadium scoreboard clock counting down from 45 minutes. In future, the referee will be in charge of timekeeping.
- The League's 12 clubs will be re-aligned to form three four-team conferences instead of the current two sixes. The new line up is: Western Conference – Colorado Rapids, Kansas City Wizards, Los Angeles Galaxy, San Jose Earthquakes; Central Conference – Chicago Fire, Columbus Crew, Dallas Burn, Tampa Bay Mutiny; Eastern Conference – Miami Fusion, DC United, New England Revolution, New York/New Jersey MetroStars. This will maintain interest in the regular season, with three instead of two Conference titles to be decided. The play-offs will feature the three Conference winners, plus the five teams with the best points totals.
- Each MLS club will continue to play 32 regular-season games, but the season will be contracted, allowing the MLS Cup to be played in mid-October. That is some five weeks earlier than this year, when the game in Boston was at risk from the weather.

The commissioner also announced some good news on the vital sponsorship front – Pepsi, Honda and Budweiser all extended their deals until 2003.

It won't do to get too excited about Garber's role in all these changes because most have been under discussion for some time. But there was something new in his comments that could be highly significant for the future of MLS.

In his inaugural speech, Garber compounded one of MLS's biggest errors: to assume that there are not enough knowledgeable fans to support it. Barely three months later, he acknowledged: "We had bypassed and under-estimated this market [the core audience], thinking that our future was based on the future fans here in America. Our strategy, as I feel it should be, is to go back and shore up our relationship with the core soccer fans and build our base from them."

This is a massive and absolutely crucial change in attitude. Nobody who knows the sport in this country is in any doubt that there already are enough genuine fans to sustain MLS. The problem has been that MLS is heavily populated with admin and marketing types who do *not* know the sport. To have Don Garber, a marketing man, come in and very quickly discern the crucial error, is decidedly encouraging.

Qualified...Atlas (in red) and Pachuca both made the play-offs

MEXICO

Atlas the best of the bunch

A YOUNG Atlas side went into the semi-finals of the Winter League as favourites to take their first title since 1951.

The club finished the regular season with only one defeat in 17 games, while the battle for the other qualifying places was fierce.

Marcelo Bielsa, now Argentina's national coach, developed the current array of young talent at Atlas, and his successor, Ricardo Lavolpe, has handled the team equally well. This has included helping the squad overcome the problems caused when one of the most promising players, midfielder Cesar Andrade, had a leg amputated after a traffic accident.

The regular season had its fair share of surprises, with Pachuca, Tigres and Monterrey, who had been struggling in the Summer League, doing much better, and Pachuca even got into the play-offs.

As expected, Toros Neza's gamble on Bebeto, the fading Brazilian superstar, did not pay off. The other players had to accept a 50 per cent salary cut in order to pay for him, and he did little of note. Toros finished bottom of their group, 20 points behind defending champions Toluca.

Carlos Ramirez

Sahel shine once again

CAF CUP FINAL

Taking the prize...Etoile Sahel win the CAF Cup

ETOILE SAHEL became the first team to win the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Cup twice when they edged out Wydad Casablanca of Morocco on the away goals rule after a 2-2 aggregate draw.

This was the third successive win for Tunisia in the 'baby' of the three annual events for African clubs.

Sahel won with relative ease, despite the tight aggregate in the decider, to add to the trophy they took in 1995.

Substitute striker Sabri Idoudi scored the only goal of the first leg, in Sousse. The game was marred by fighting and a red card for Wydad substitute Faycal Amikaddour three minutes from time.

The return was played in a half-empty Mohammed V stadium in Casablanca, and was virtually sewn up by Sahel when Tunisian World Cup midfielder Kaies Ghodhbane scored after 27 minutes.

Wydad managed to reduce the deficit in the 53rd minute through Amine Marhoubi, and got a second goal four minutes from time, from Mohamed Lakhouil. But it was too late to deny Sahel their victory.

Mark Gleeson

CUP-WINNERS CUP FINAL

Africa Sports end Tunisian hopes

TUNISIAN hopes of an unprecedented sweep of the three African club competitions came unstuck in the Cup-winners Cup. Africa Sports of Ivory Coast struck a blow for sub-Saharan soccer with a 2-1 aggregate win over Club Africain in the Final, to lift the Mandela Cup.

When Africa Sports missed an early penalty in the first leg, the tie looked to be going Club Africain's way, even more so when the Ivorians could muster only a 1-0 win in the

ROUND-UP

It's official: twins join the 100 club

FIFA has officially recognised that Egyptian striker Hossam Hassan has 131 caps and that his twin brother, Ibrahim, has 103, after documentation was put forward by the Egyptian federation.

The only other African to have topped 100 caps is Algeria's Rabah Madjer, though his total is unconfirmed. Madjer has just been replaced by Croatian Josip Skoblar, 58, as coach of **ALGERIA**.

There was a mixed start to Frenchman Gerard Gili's career as coach of **EGYPT**. He lost his first game in charge, against Ghana in Cairo, but won three days later against Namibia.

EAST AFRICA

SPORTS CLUB VILLA have won the **UGANDAN** title for a record 11th time, finishing two points clear of Express. Villa's Andrew Mukasa scored 45 goals, beating the previous single-season record of 32.

KENYA's Austin Makacha and Kevin Ateku have raised a storm of controversy with their unauthorised departure from AFC Leopards for clubs in Oman.

Provincial side AS Fortior from Tamatave are the **MADAGASCAN** champions, taking the title with some ease from DSA.

RWANDA's national team captain, Jean-Paul Nsengiyumva, and three other players absconded from a training camp in Germany in search of asylum and a possible career with a European club.

CENTRAL AFRICA

VETERAN captain Francois Amegasse scored a last-minute goal to give **GABON** a 1-0 away win in a friendly against Ivory Coast. Gabon followed that with a 2-0 home defeat of Chad in the new UNIFAC tournament for the Central African region.

DR CONGO drew 1-1 with **CONGO** in Kinshasa.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

NEWLY-PROMOTED Tembisa Classic were second behind Mamelodi Sundowns in **SOUTH AFRICA** as the midway point of the season approached.

Moroka Swallows boss Walter da Silva was kidnapped for several hours by two armed men, and robbed, to keep him from attending a League match. Da Silva said the kidnappers were disgruntled fans.

In **ANGOLA**, Primeiro Agosto strolled to the title, eight points ahead of Petro Lobito; Sagrada Esperanca beat AS Aviacao 1-0 in the Cup Final.

Nkana FC completed the Double in **ZAMBIA**, taking the title by two points from Zamsure.

Ricardo Witbeen scored the only goal as Chief Santos beat Tigers in the **NAMIBIAN** Cup Final.

WEST AFRICA

SIERRA LEONE have appointed Egyptian Ismail Khalil Dyfan as national coach, and have plans to revive the League after the end of civil conflict.

SENEGAL had a morale-lifting 3-0 triumph over Ivory Coast in Dakar.

The **NIGERIAN** Cup Final was won by Plateau United, who beat Iwanyanwu Nationale 1-0.

Hearts of Oak completed the Double in **GHANA** by beating Accra Great Olympics in the FA Cup Final.

Mark Gleeson

Double ton...the Hassan twins

first leg in Abidjan, through Fadel Keita's 30th-minute goal.

Martial Yeo, the experienced coach of Africa Sports, was left rueing the missed chances, and he looked somewhat glum at the prospect of the return a fortnight later at El Menzah stadium in Tunis.

But what seemed a mere formality for the 40,000 'Clubistes' was ruined by Abdelkader Keita 23 minutes into the game, when he doubled the aggregate lead by adding to his elder brother's first-leg goal.

So Club Africain needed to score three to take the trophy and they set about the task almost immediately, with big Algerian international defender Rezki Amrouche scoring within 60 seconds. But there were to be no more goals.

Six days earlier, Africa Sports had wrested the Ivorian championship away from ASEC Abidjan. So they will not defend their Cup-winners Cup title in 2000, but will play in the Champions League instead.

Mark Gleeson

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Esperance and Raja scrape through

AS EXPECTED, Esperance of Tunisia and Morocco's Raja Casablanca topped their groups to book places in the African Champions League Final. But both showed some vulnerability in the final group games.

Raja, needing only a point to go through, had to fight a tough rearguard action against Al Ahly of Egypt to secure their place with a 1-1 draw. Their goal, only their fourth from six group matches, came from diminutive striker Reda Ereyahi in the 40th minute, but their lead lasted only three minutes before Mohammed Farouk equalised.

Esperance, also needing one point, limped through with a 42nd-minute penalty from Walid Azaiez against weakened Dynamos of Zimbabwe.

● The full story of the Champions Cup Final in next month's issue.

Mark Gleeson

OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

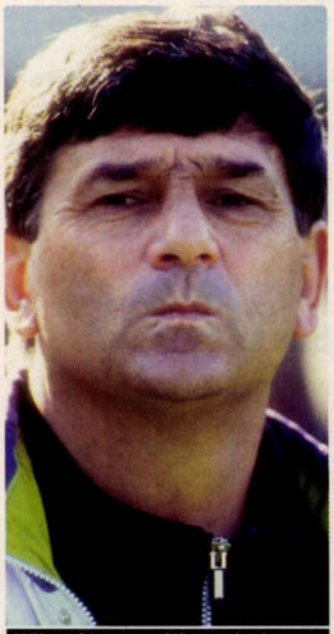
Zimbabwe start well

ZIMBABWE's teams continually rank among the contenders but then, seemingly without fail, fall at the final hurdle. That was true of the national side in the qualifiers for the African Nations Cup finals, which ended in August, and it could prove to be the case once again in the qualifiers for the Sydney Olympics.

Zimbabwe started their campaign at their usual cracking pace, winning their opening two matches in Group A and, in the process, beating Nigeria, the gold medallists from Atlanta 96.

Clemens Westerhof, the wily old Dutch coach, claimed his team had had only a few days of preparation and were "no-hopers" before they met Uganda in their opening game, but they won 3-0 in Kampala.

They followed up with a 2-1 win over Nigeria in Harare, with two goals from Benjamin Mwaruwari, better known as 'The Undertaker'.



Wily...Clemens Westerhof

In Group B, the Cameroon-Ghana game in Douala has to be replayed after play was halted with a minute left and the score 2-2, when Ghana complained about a lack of visibility. Earlier, torrential rain had forced a 40-minute half-time break.

Cameroon, who won the All Africa Games gold medal in Johannesburg in September, had opened their campaign with a 3-0 away thumping of Guinea.

But South Africa could well emerge as the surprise package, having taken an away point off highly-fancied Ghana and then beating Guinea 3-1 at home.

The ASEC Abidjan connection is paying dividends for Ivory Coast in Group C, which coach Jean-Marc Guillou's youthful team lead after a 4-1 home win over Morocco. All the Ivorian goals came from ASEC players – Gilles Yapi, Venance Zeze, Bakary Kone and Siaky Tiene.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Charles Akonnor

It's time for Ghana's captain to come centre-stage

GHANA kick off their African Nations Cup campaign at the end of January with high hopes of winning a fourth continental title. The era of Abedi Pele and Tony Yeboah is over, and the leadership role is now being taken by one Charles Akonnor, or CK as he is better known in West Africa.

It is a big task for the man who has been based in Germany for seven seasons. "I don't need anyone to remind me that I have big shoes to fill," he says.

But Akonnor has the credentials for the job. He has been at the top of the African game for years, a regular international with considerable experience. This includes appearances at the last three Nations Cup finals, and it might have been four had his age not counted against him when Ghana selected their side for the 1992 finals in Senegal.

Akonnor scored twice in the 1994 finals in Tunisia, one a free-kick from 35 metres against Guinea in Sousse. He also captained the 1996 Olympic team in Atlanta and has led Ghana comfortably through their pre-Nations Cup preparations over the past 12 months. In his first game as skipper, in October 1998, Ghana won 3-1 away to Cameroon, only the second time the Indomitable Lions had lost a Nations Cup game at home.

"Now we have to erase the bad memory of Burkina Faso in 1998, where we failed to go beyond the first round," says Akonnor.

He first went to Europe to join Fortuna Koln in Germany, and spent five years in the Second Division before signing for Wolfsburg in the Bundesliga last season. It was something of a culture shock to move to a working town after the bright lights of the city, but Akonnor says it has suited him. "People have big hearts here," he says.

His first year in the top flight confirmed his pedigree: he scored six goals in 32 games and helped Wolfsburg to a surprise sixth-place finish.

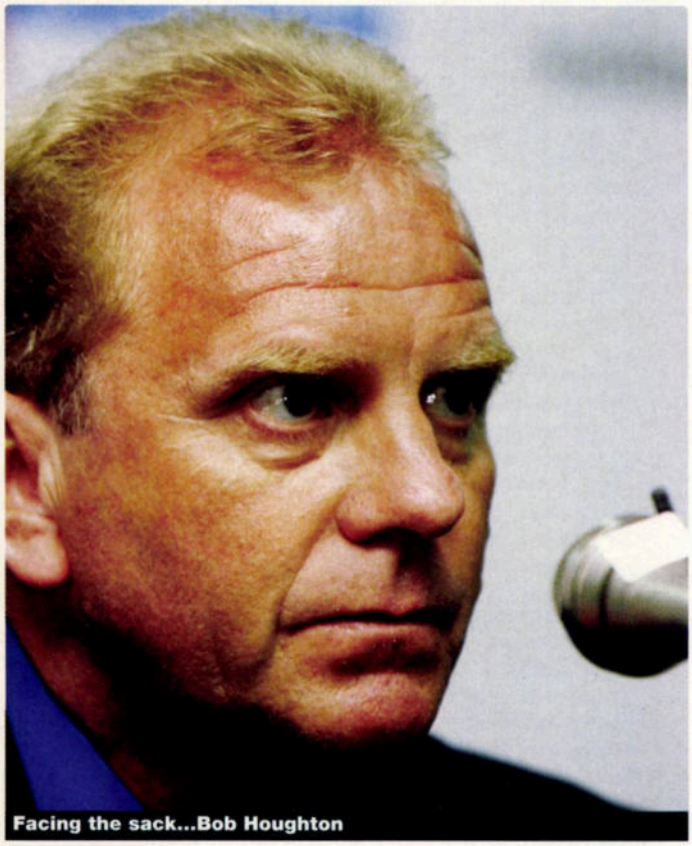
Now, settled in Germany, he continues to toil out of the spotlight enjoyed by many Africans in Europe. But it could be that come the end of February, his name will be known in many more places than Ghana, Cologne and Wolfsburg.

Mark Gleeson

Fact file

Club Wolfsburg (Ger)
Country Ghana
Born March 12, 1974
Previous clubs Young Hearts Tema, Okwahu United, Goldfields, Fortuna Koln (Ger)
International debut July 1991, v Burkina Faso
International caps 37 (8 gls)

Houghton under fire


Facing the sack...Bob Houghton

Missing out on Sydney puts the future of China's coach in doubt, writes Michael Church

OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

CHINA'S failure to qualify for the Sydney Olympics has called the future of the country's English coach Bob Houghton into question.

Houghton took charge of the Chinese national team at the start of 1998 after the nation had failed to qualify for the last World Cup. The former Malmo coach soon restored confidence to the side, guiding them to a 2-0 victory over Japan in the final match of the Dynasty Cup in Tokyo. And, although the Japanese won the tournament on goal difference, Houghton and his new charges were being talked about as among the favourites to reach the finals of the 2002 World Cup.

Now doubt has been cast on the squad's ability after they failed to take one of Asia's three places in Sydney.

Houghton's side lost out to South Korea in one of the confederation's three three-team groups, from which only the winners qualified for the finals.

They were beaten 1-0 in their opening match, against South Korea, and though a 2-1 win over Bahrain in Shanghai put them back on track, a 1-1 draw at the same venue virtually sealed the group for Huh Jung-moo's Koreans. A week later, with China's 1-0 loss away to Bahrain, Huh's kids were through while Houghton and his side were mauled by the media.

However, after some calls for the coach's head, a number of senior players and coaches came out in Houghton's support, saying how they valued the work he had done over the previous two years.

"The sports minister thinks that we should have qualified so he wants to sack the coach," said Houghton. "But 30 players from the national and Olympic teams have come out in support of me. Who knows what will happen? You don't want player power but in this case it's genuine. The players feel we were working hard and getting somewhere, and they don't want that going to waste."

While Houghton was facing the prospect of losing his job, Philippe Troussier's Japan side were joining the Koreans in qualifying for Sydney.

The Frenchman's talented youngsters came through relatively unscathed against Thailand and Kazakhstan, winning four out of four.

Asia's third spot was taken by a Kuwaiti side who overcame a loss to Saudi Arabia in their opening fixture to win three matches in a row.

ASIAN CUP

Emirates ousted

TWO more nations, Uzbekistan and Indonesia, are through to the Asian Cup finals, to be played in Lebanon in October. They topped their respective groups in the qualifying tournament for the competition, which is played once every four years.

Defending champions Saudi Arabia qualify automatically, as do hosts Lebanon, with the remaining 10 berths contested by 41 nations.

Iraq were the first country to qualify, but the surprise of the opening stage came when the Uzbeks defeated the United Arab Emirates, hosts and beaten finalists in 1996.

Meanwhile, Indonesia cruised through their qualifying group against Cambodia and Hong Kong, to secure their place in the final 12.

Michael Church

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Sun's path uncertain

THE BIG question concerning Chinese international Sun Jihai is, which club does he belong to? The 21-year-old defender has been told to return to Crystal Palace in England after his new (or old) club Dalian Wanda failed to pay the £650,000 transfer fee required when he returned to China during the summer.

And with a FIFA suspension hanging over his head following an incident with a referee during the Olympic qualifying tournament, Sun's status is uncertain to say the least.

"The main problem is that I've been suspended by FIFA, so whether I stay at Dalian or go back to Palace doesn't matter because I still can't play," he says. "The decision will be made by the two clubs so I don't really have anything to do with it."

However, a return to England is not something Sun relishes, and particularly not to the First Division, where compatriot Fan Zhiyi has remained to help Palace battle against relegation.

Sun says: "I hope to go abroad again in a year or so and this time I want to go to another European country, maybe France or Italy.

"For Asian players skill is more important than the physical side of the game. I don't think the standard is low in England...but maybe the English put too much emphasis on tight play. I just think that it's better for Asian players to go elsewhere."

Like Fan, Sun has been fighting against relegation. Dalian Wanda have collapsed from being the powerhouse of Chinese football to mere also-rans in less than a season. "Dalian were in a very dangerous position in the League," says Sun. "Dalian is my home town and they wanted me to come back and maybe inspire the team to better results and go back up the table."

Michael Church

Coming or going?...Sun Jihai

On high...Steve Perryman has taken Shimizu S-Pulse to the top

S-Pulse by far the strongest

JAPAN

STEVE PERRYMAN's Shimizu S-Pulse won the J.League's Second Stage with a game to spare, setting up a two-legged championship clash with First Stage champions Jubilo Iwata. S-Pulse clinched the title with a 2-1 win at second-placed Yokohama F Marinos.

"We've managed to work together, play together and win together," said a jubilant Perryman. "I've never won a championship before and the last step was the biggest. I wish we'd done it with a bit more style, but we've done it."

Perryman had special words for his predecessor and former partner at S-Pulse, Ossie Ardiles, who was in the stands to watch. "It's taken a lot of work, a lot of people, and I was delighted that Ossie was here today to see it because he started this team off." Ironically, Ardiles was later appointed coach of F Marinos, taking over from the Spaniard Jesus Antonio De La Cruz.

The battle to avoid going down with Bellmare Hiratsuka went all the way to the line, with Urawa Reds eventually losing out by just a single goal having finished on the same points total as Avispa Fukuoka and JEF United. The outcome led to the resignation of Urawa's Dutch coach Aad De Mos. Coming into the top flight are Kawasaki Frontale and FC Tokyo.

Kashiwa Reysol won their first J.League trophy with a thrilling win over Kashima Antlers in the Yamazaki Nabisco Cup Final. The game had everything, with Reysol scoring an early goal through Harutaka Ono, Antlers fighting back with strikes from Bismarck and Toshhiyuki Abe, a last-minute equaliser from Takeshi Watanabe, and a see-saw penalty shoot-out after extra time which Reysol won 5-4. Reysol's squad includes a number of exciting youngsters such as keeper Yuta Minami, midfielder Tomokazu Myojin and striker Hideaki Kitajima.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

ROUND-UP

Jubilo sneak it

WHILE Saudi Arabians Al Nassr are preparing to take part in the inaugural World Club Championship, Japan's Jubilo Iwata have qualified for the next one. They lifted the **ASIAN SUPER CUP** in Jeddah with an away-goals win over Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad.

World Cup striker Masashi Nakayama netted the only goal of the home leg, then scored in the away match before Al Ittihad netted twice in the last 12 minutes.

CHINA claimed their seventh consecutive Asian Women's Championship with a 3-0 win over Taiwan in the Final in the Philippines. The Chinese have won the competition every year since they first entered in 1986.

SAUDI ARABIAN international Mohammed Al-Deayea has become the most expensive goalkeeper in Asia after joining Al Hilal from lowly Al Tai for £1million. Al-Deayea, who played in both the 1994 and 1998 World Cups, was recently voted Asian goalkeeper of the century.

Saudi League and Cup double champions Al Ittihad have signed former Milan and Italy striker Roberto Donadoni on a seven-month deal worth close to £400,000.

In **JAPAN**, former Asian Player of the Year Masami Ihara has been released by Yokohama F Marinos. Ihara, who played 123 times for Japan, led the club to the J.League championship in 1995 and was the first Asian to score at Wembley, in Japan's 2-1 loss to England in the same year.

Dutchman Ruud Krol has signed a two-year contract to take charge of the **OMAN** national team, following the dismissal of Brazilian Paulo Vieira.

THAILAND's Kiatisuk Senamuang became the first player from South-East Asia to join an English side when he signed for First Division Huddersfield Town. The 26-year-old, known as Zico, left the Rajpracha club after initially failing a trial with Middlesbrough.

Mohammedan SC clinched the **BANGLADESH** Premier Division title in style, outplaying arch rivals Abahani KC 3-0 in the deciding match of the 'Super Four' stage.

QATAR's Al Ittihad of Doha managed to break the supremacy of African clubs in the Arab Cup-winners Cup by defeating Syria's Al Jaish 2-0 in the Final in Kuwait City.

Michael Church, Mohamed Chbaro & Azam Mahmood

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Tiatto and Viduka match the Brazilians

AUSTRALIA

First meeting...Australia v Brazil

A TEAM billed as the Brazilian national selection, though in reality an Olympic combination, certainly gave local fans value for money during their two matches in Australia.

Due to the absence of Ronaldo and Harry Kewell – who had featured heavily in pre-match advertising – the promoters decided to allow free entrance to both games.

In the opening encounter, at Stadium Australia in Sydney, the Denilson-inspired South Americans dominated their rugged hosts and should have won by more than the 2-0 margin secured with goals by Alvaro and Alex.

The only consolation for Australia was the form of Danny Tiatto, the Manchester City midfielder, who was the one Socceroo to look worthy of a place on the same pitch as Brazil.

Three days later, at Melbourne Cricket Ground, the roles were almost totally reversed. This time Australia gained the initiative and Celtic's Mark Viduka, making a rare appearance in his home city, proved the most influential player.

He continually stretched the Brazilian defence and created an early goal for Paul Agostino. When he netted again on the hour, a home victory seemed assured.

But Ronaldinho pulled one back immediately after Viduka had been substituted, and with four minutes left Fabio Junior salvaged a fortunate draw for Brazil.

The combined attendance for the matches was just over 130,000.

Fittingly, in view of Australia's decision to retain the monarchy, the National Soccer League is led by a team from Queensland.

Brisbane Strikers won the title three seasons ago with a team devoid of stars, and the current side also have few big-name players. However, coach John Kosmina was one of Australia's most distinguished internationals in the 1980s, and included Arsenal among his clubs.

Kosmina has moulded Strikers into a workmanlike combination, although it is far too early to predict a repeat of 1996-97 with any confidence.

Sydney Olympic, in second place, have star quality – even if only for two matches. Liverpool legend Ian Rush, now 38, repaid a large chunk of his £20,000-per-game fee when scoring the winner in the 2-1 victory over Marconi which enabled Olympic to go above Carlton Blues.

Wollongong Wolves, Marconi and Perth Glory complete the top six, while South Melbourne – who face Manchester United in the World Club Championship – are currently seventh.

● In **SAMOA**, Moataa clinched the championship with one round remaining when they defeated Vaitoloa 4-3. The Black and Whites, only a Second Division outfit last year, can thank the free-scoring Vaeao brothers, Sa and Tagiilima, for their rise. Appropriately, they scored all the goals against Vaitoloa, Sa claiming a hat-trick and Tagiilima providing a spectacular header.

● In **FIJI**, the FA not surprisingly named Nadi as Team of the Year. They won the two most prestigious domestic competitions, the National League and Inter Districts Championship, and reached the Final of the inaugural Oceania Champions Cup.

Paul Moon

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CLUES ACROSS

2 Ex-Maribor defender of Linz ASK and Slovenia (9)
6 Lazio's £19m capture from Parma (5)
7 Former Ajax and Perugia midfielder skippering Vitesse Arnhem (5)
9 India's first professional soccer club (6)
10 South African central defender in England with Bolton (4)
12 Heerenveen and South Africa keeper (4)
14 Bobby Robson's immediate successor as PSV coach (6)
17 Real Madrid forward on loan to Valladolid (5)
18 Coach contracted to Kosice midway through the 1997-98 European campaign (5)
19 Cruzeiro defender snapped up by Borussia Dortmund last summer (9)

CLUES DOWN

1 Serb striker now with Rapid Wien (9)
2 Croatian international now at Bobby Robson's Newcastle (5)
3 Almqvist's assistant who replaced him at IFK Gothenburg (6)
4 Young Czech defender who left Bohemians for Nurnberg in 1998 (4)
5 Italy's £31million man (5)
8 Swedish keeper of Lillestrom and Brann fame (9)
11 Leading scorer at the 1978 World Cup (6)
13 Burundi forward establishing himself as Rennes' prize asset (5)
15 Defender who switched from Trabzonspor to Fenerbahce in 1998 (5)
16 Atletico's ex-Espanyol goalkeeper (4)

OCTOBER SOLUTION

ACROSS: 7 Adani, 8 Peiro, 9 Scolari, 10 Ndo, 11 Nice, 13 Haka, 17 Pua, 18 Almeida, 20 Nkono, 21 Deane.
DOWN: 1 Hassan, 2 Rayo, 3 Aimar, 4 Spain, 5 Vienna, 6 Loko, 12 Chamot, 14 Adamec, 15 Panov, 16 Smuda, 17 Pina, 19 Iran.

OCTOBER WINNERS

1st prize: Dr Russell Ong, London.
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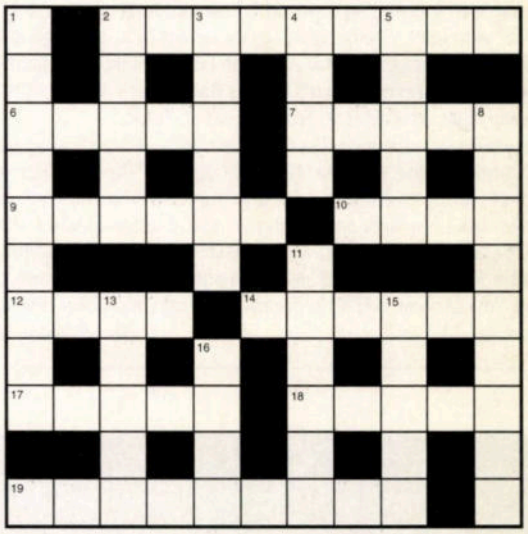

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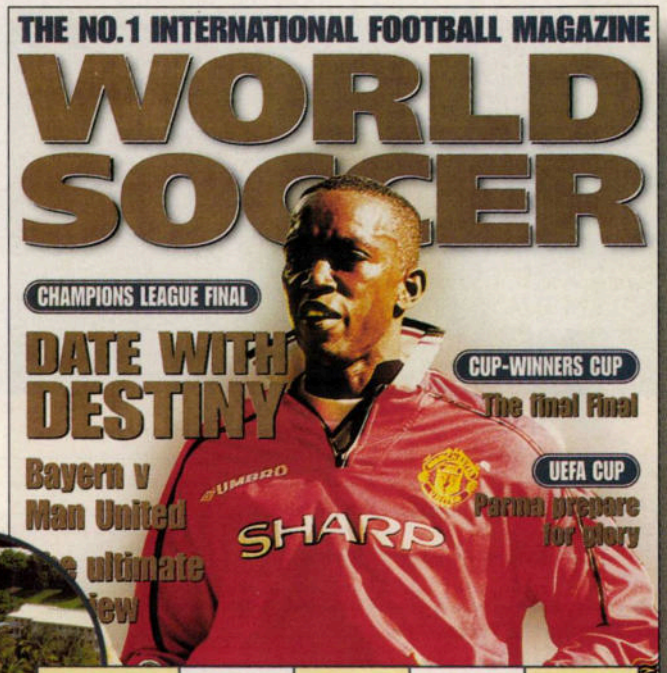

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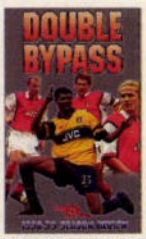

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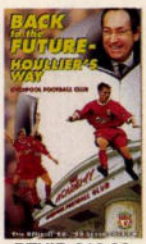

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'Tottenham and West Ham's UEFA Cup second round performances would have deserved scant sympathy were it not for the free passage afforded to the Gunners'

Out and in...Arsenal's Seaman and Adams celebrate qualification for the UEFA Cup after exiting the Champions League

UEFA Cup suffers devaluation

WHAT IN the name of sanity is happening to UEFA? The ultimate idiocy, surely, is to cheapen and distort the UEFA Cup by allowing the deadbeats from the Champions League to slink into the third round. So it was that West Ham United, having slogged their way through to the second round from last July, and the fatuous InterToto tournament (thank you, Lennart Johansson), found themselves eliminated by Steaua Bucharest, while Arsenal breezed into the next round as a 'reward' for slumping out of the major tournament. This is surely a cause for shame rather than for consolation.

When I pointed this out to West Ham manager Harry Redknapp, he was quite euphoric and said cheerily that the Hammers could now compete for the Essex Cup. This reminded me, I told him, of the days when Arsenal each year would play Hendon (or were they then still Golders Green?) for the so-called Will Mather Manor House Hospital Memorial Trophy, which, surprisingly, they always won.

Tottenham went out of the UEFA Cup at the same stage as West Ham, and, like the Hammers against Steaua, would have deserved scant sympathy for their performances against modest Kaiserslautern were it not for the free passage afforded to the Gunners. Arsenal's wretched Champions League performances at Wembley scarcely merited such a lifeline.

The Cup-winners Cup has gone, doomed as soon as UEFA, scared stiff of Silvio Berlusconi's Superleague machinations, decided to let eight top countries put two teams each into the so-called Champions League. This competition, of course, is liable for prosecution under the Trades Descriptions Act, its Final last season being contested between two teams neither of whom were national champions.

Meanwhile the plethora of European fixtures is playing hell with players. Recently, Chelsea chairman Ken Bates publicly criticised his manager, Gianluca Vialli, for his deployment of 'rotated' players after three successive defeats in the League; then furiously assailed the tabloid journalists who had made much of it.

The moral seemed to be that if you want to criticise your coach in peace, don't do it in public. The larger moral was surely that Euro demands are making life impossible for those subjected to them.

Bayern Munich seemed to be much nearer the mark when they, in the shape of their former stars Franz Beckenbauer and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, deplored the strain put on teams like theirs who had to play each week in the so-called Champions League. Once every fortnight, they felt, would be more like it, and who could deny them?

Players, all appearances to the contrary, are human. When Chelsea visit Milan for what is potentially a make-or-break match they must muster all their mental, let alone physical, forces, and after a game as vibrant and highly contested as their 1-1 draw there, time is surely needed to recover. That is exactly what such players do not get.

Four days after that fixture I saw Chelsea beaten out of sight at Derby; earlier in the season, three days after the home draw against Milan, I saw them lose to Watford. On neither occasion did Chelsea look at all like the team who had played a few days earlier in Europe. Ditto when they played at home against West Ham, four days after seeing off Hertha Berlin 2-0 – even though the Hammers had played still more recently, having drawn with Steaua that Thursday.

No wonder it was such a rotten, boring game, though you would never think so to hear the respective managers talk about it afterwards. And at least both teams had Europe as an excuse, unlike Villa and Southampton who met in an apology for a football match which I'd had to endure the previous day. After that protracted bore, Southampton's winning manager, David Jones, said he thought his team's performance in the second half was superb. I'd hate to see them on a day when he thought them mediocre.

● Gremlins assailed my mention of Gerd Muller in last month's centenary issue. He was of course initially opposed at Bayern Munich by the Yugoslav coach Zlatko Cjaicowski, not by the German Udo Lattek, who arrived years later.

South Africa - don't consider it

LET me give Sepp Blatter, our beloved FIFA president, the benefit of the doubt and assume that, in appearing to support South Africa's candidature for the 2006 World Cup, he is merely going through the motions.

Giving a World Cup to South Africa as it disintegrates before our very eyes, as violent crime rises horrifically and exponentially, surely would be the ultimate irresponsibility. Even the new president, Thabo M'Beke, has lamented the criminal chaos in the country: 27,000 murders a year, and rising; a reported rape rate of one every 28 seconds; endless car-jackings, epidemic burglary.

And who knows what state of decay and decline the economy will be in by 2006?

In an ideal world, of course, Africa should have a World Cup. I yield to none in my admiration for the African footballer and my appreciation of what he has done for the European game. I also know that he has endlessly been let down by wretched administration and endemic corruption.

But it is not Africa's 'turn' to host the tournament. I don't think it ever should be anybody's turn. The decision about the award of hosting rights should be objective and not one made for essentially sentimental reasons.

I would not much care whether England or Germany got that 2006 tournament. If the USA got it again, they would make a success of it, even more so probably than they did in 1994. But in some ways, thanks to the way the World Cup has been so appallingly bloated by Horrible Havelange, it bids to become almost as much of a curse on a country as the Olympic Games.

Redknapp versus the referees

HARRY REDKNAPP made, not for the first time, a valid point after West Ham's recent League match at Chelsea, lamenting the fact that an officious and erratic referee had booked the *wunderkind,* Joe Cole, for allegedly simulating a foul.

Redknapp compared and contrasted Mike Riley's performance with that of the sublimely inept Czech, Lubomir Pucek, who had handled the second leg of West Ham's UEFA Cup tie against Steaua with a permissiveness that sometimes took the breath away.

In particular, as Redknapp said, it was amazing that the Steaua defender, Duro was allowed to stay on the field. The West Ham manager was quite entitled to call him "dangerous".

He also was surely within his rights to say that it was inconceivable that a lad of Cole's character could simulate a foul.

Having watched Cole in both games, my only criticism of him would be that he tends at times to over-elaborate; but this in itself is surely a good fault.

Long may he continue, with his baggage of tricks, skills and ideas, to attempt the impossible.

Bag of tricks...Joe Cole takes on Steaua at Upton Park, watched by the 'inept' Lubomir Pucek

The pros and cons of coaching

Deplorable...Charlie Hughes

THERE was great wailing and gnashing of teeth recently over the news that England has fewer than 1,000 coaches with UEFA certificates, while Germany has a staggering 53,000 and France 17,700.

Taking a historical perspective, there has never been any doubt that *good* coaching can be of vital importance, nor that English football suffered for years between the wars because all our decent coaches were forced abroad; it is equally certain that *bad* coaching can do appalling harm.

Initially, resistance to coaching in Britain was caused by a kind of superiority complex. "They coach, we don't!" said the good old *Athletic News* in the 1920s, going on to say that until we did and did it properly, we would be falling behind the foreigners in technique and style. And there is no doubt that little Jimmy Hogan, the celebrated coach, did magnificent work in Austria, Hungary and Germany.

Hogan used to say that he learned all about the game from Scottish pros at Fulham. But, first under Walter Winterbottom and latterly and deplorably under Long Ball Charlie Hughes, FA coaching became a rigid and destructive orthodoxy, an aggressive, almost paranoiac, pseudo science.

Ding dong, the witch is dead, one wanted to sing when Hughes and his corrosive idea departed from Lancaster Gate. But even now you do wonder about those many so-called Schools of Excellence. Who said they were excellent? We can only take their word for it.

Some players, the Gazzas of this world, plainly do not need any coaching. Winterbottom, in his earlier days, used modestly to say that coaching was simply a question of "showing how to practise". Some of the greatest managers could not coach at all: Brian Clough, for example, and look at the teams and players he produced. Kenny Dalglish was no coach either, yet he won the English title with different clubs.

A good coach is an infinite joy and resource. But they don't grow on trees.

From the archives...

January 1976

THE COVER of *World Soccer* this month 24 years ago featured a shot of Celtic's Bobby Lennox in the heat of the Old Firm action. Inside, Alex Gordon was more concerned about Scotland's international standing, the team having recently failed to make it through the qualifying stages of the European Championship. "All Scotland still sighs for players of the quality and determination of Dave Mackay, Denis Law and Jim Baxter."

Law's departure from the playing scene was also bemoaned by Paul Radford in his article 'What happened to individuals?'. "When Denis Law... followed Bobby Charlton and George Best into retirement 18 months ago, the game lost a great character and a great entertainer," he wrote.

Radford quoted Law's own views on the reasons behind the decline in individuality within the game. "Managers just want work rate now," said the former Scotland international, "but work rate is rubbish. Some of the greatest players, like Greaves, Puskas, Baxter, didn't have work rate."

Not surprisingly, Law's two favourite players at the time were 'individuals' – Stan Bowles of QPR and Manchester City's Rodney Marsh. By coincidence, Marsh appeared elsewhere in the issue, giving his reasons for not accepting a lucrative move to Anderlecht: "Even though I could have earned a great deal more money in Belgium than here, there is surely no place like home!".

Just as now it was World Cup draw time, with Eric Batty assessing the process behind the selection of qualifying groups for the 1978 tournament.

The draw as a whole led him to say that "nothing will convince me that the pulling of numbers out of a hat or whatever isn't a charade. For a start, there can be no disputing that the qualifying groups for the South American countries were not fixed...FIFA and all the other ruling bodies should announce once and for all that cup ties are *arranged* in the best interests of the game and those taking part...and then there would be no deception, and I would have nothing to complain about."

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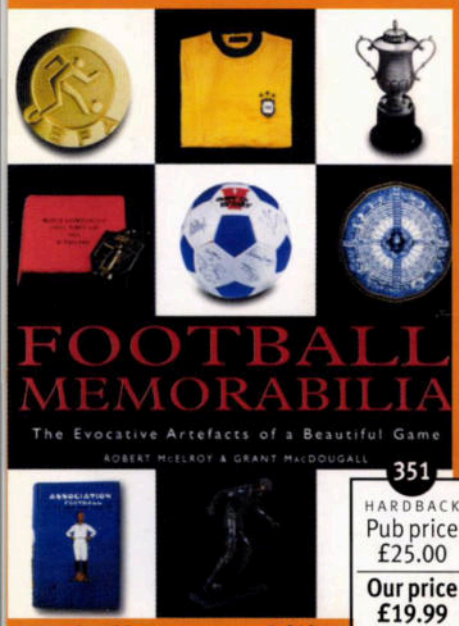

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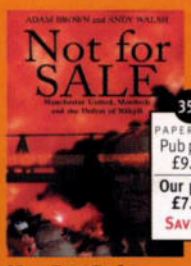

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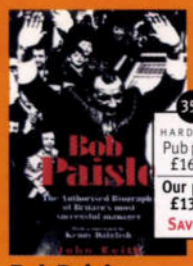

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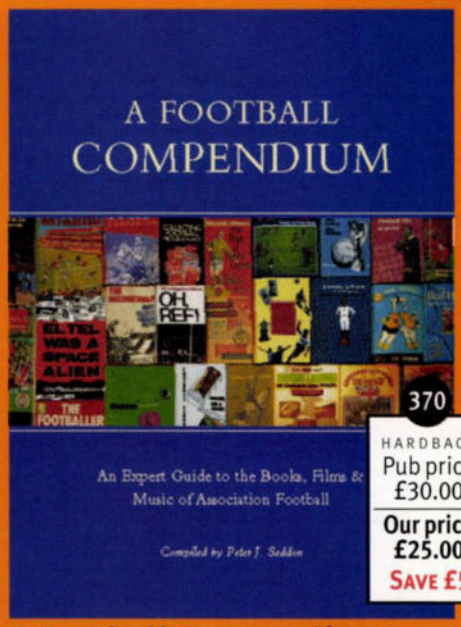

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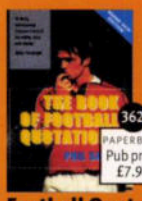

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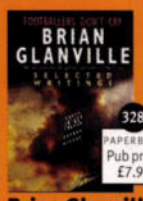

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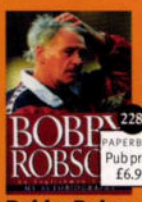

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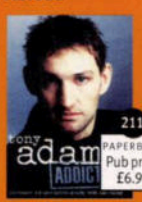

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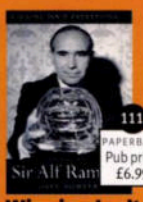

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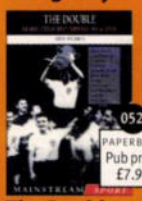

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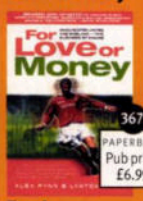

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